MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
THE MIGHTY THOR®
VOLUME 7

THE MIGHTY THOR® Nos. 153-162

STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MARVEL

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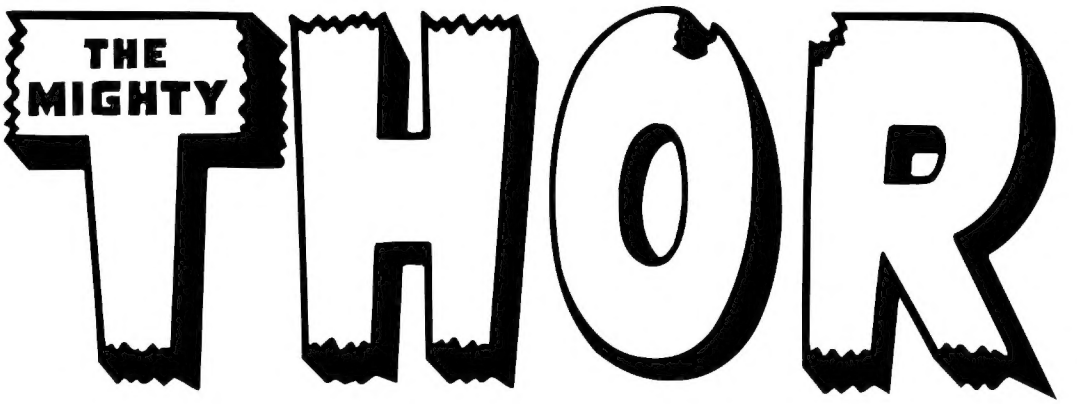
PRESENTS



VOLUME 7

COLLECTING

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 153-162

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THE
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Nos. 153-162

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INTRODUCTION
BY ARLEN SCHUMER

After Thor's creation in 1962 as more or less Marvel's Superman—dressed as a Viking, yes, but with the same primary-colored costume, cape, and powers as DC's flagship super hero—artist and storyteller Jack Kirby and writer Stan Lee gradually transformed him, by the mid-1960s, into an iconic warrior-king with a stature that befitted his title of god. With their backup feature, "Tales of Asgard," providing the ample historical background and mythological gravitas to their lead characters—Thor's fellow warriors, cosmic beings, deities and demons—Kirby and Lee began to produce truly awe-inspiring adventures beyond Earth, into Asgard, and throughout the universe. They reached their apex, perhaps, in the artwork, stories and themes found in this volume.

"I began to realize what a wonderful and awesome place the universe is, and that helped me in comics because I was looking for the awesome," Kirby said in a 1993 interview. "I found it in Thor." Awesome indeed and terrible to behold was Mangog, the hellspawn behemoth Kirby unleashed in *Thor* #154, setting off a four-issue epic saga that is undeniably definitive in Kirby's oeuvre of epic sagas. An unholy amalgam of minotaur, devil and dinosaur, Mangog was, in Lee's best hyperbolic prose, "possessed of the strength of a billion billion beings" and on a single-minded mission of mayhem, vengeance, destruction and death—not only of Odin (whom Mangog blamed for the death of his entire race) and all of Asgard—but of all life everywhere, for Mangog wanted to bring on the dreaded "Ragnarok—the death of all thy universe!"

Ragnarok, the Asgardian Armageddon, was a concept Kirby and Lee had bandied about in *Thor* for years prior, most prominently in a "Tales of Asgard" installment (*Thor* # 128, May 1966, its splash page echoed in the background of the cover of #157, one of Kirby's greatest masterpieces, a perverse Pieta, with Mangog's humongous claw cradling a fallen Thor), but never had it come so close to actually happening until this Mangog multi-parter reached its climax: after laying waste to everything in his path, including Thor and all of Asgard's best and brightest, Mangog begins to unsheathe the sequoia-sized Odinsword, thus initiating Ragnarok.

But just then, in a bit of a *deus ex machina,* Odin awakens from his "life-giving Odinsleep" and stops Mangog dead in his tracks, literally, with a wave of his hand; for it turns out Mangog was in reality an illusion, part of a spell Odin cast on his entire race ages before, in penance (for crime or crimes never revealed, strangely)—"a living prison." Once Mangog fades away, Odin brings the "billion billion beings" to life again, "…to dwell in peace…fore'er!" Thor and company all hail Odin as the curtain falls, and Lee adds a final burst with the Latin "Dum spiro spero," which means, "While I breathe, I hope."

What was this Mangog epic about? Not in a literal, surface-reading sense, but rather, given everything we know about Kirby's background, his upbringing, his life experiences—especially his World War II duty—in a more between-the-lines, under-the-skin analysis; a deconstruction, as it were, of Mangog.

To begin with, the name Mangog was probably derived from the Biblical Magog, a grandson of Noah, but is more commonly associated with an apocryphal Biblical story of Gog and Magog, in which Gog, one of the fallen angels of a nation called Magog, represents an apocalyptic coalition of nations arrayed against Israel. In other biblical traditions, Gog and Magog are variously presented as supernatural beings like giants or demons, and even in the Qur'an they are described as "evil and destructive in nature" and causing "great corruption on earth." A Georgian tradition compares them to "wild men with hideous faces and the manner of wild beasts, eaters of blood."

With this portentous provenance of Mangog's appellation established, it would appear clear that such a monstrous being, swathing a path of total destruction across Asgard, could only represent, to a war veteran of the European theater like Kirby, the Blitzkreiging Nazi war machine as it stormed over Europe, annihilating all who stood in its terrible path. If so, then are the "billion billion" brethren of Mangog the German people that Kirby, through Odin, figuratively forgives for their collaboration with their Nazi countrymen? It seems unlikely that Kirby, a proud Jew born Yaakov Kurtzberg from European immigrant parents, would ever forgive the German people—indeed, issues of their passivity, responsibility, ignorance or awareness of the extent of Nazi evil are still being debated today—so perhaps Odin, in a more general way, stands for the victorious United States, "forgiving" the Germans (or, in this analogy, the Japanese) after a horrible war by rebuilding their country and turning them into an ally. Either way, the Mangog epic demonstrates that, like the greatest American genre storytellers in westerns (John Ford) and science fiction (Kubrick), Kirby's super-heroic sagas operated on two levels: the one you read, and the one you read into.

Like the *Thor* three-parter that ends this volume, the awesome showdown between two of Kirby's greatest cosmic creations: Ego, the Living Planet and Galactus, the planet devourer. Though Galactus had, up 'til then, only been seen in the pages of Kirby's *Fantastic Four* from whence he arose, it seemed a natural that he would have to eventually crossover to *Thor* and meet the ultimate planet on the menu in Ego. While those two engage in a battle royale that lives up to any and all expectations of Kirby's pulse-pounding power on the page, he introduces a legion of alien nomads called the Wanderers, who were the first victims of Galactus ages before, and who have been wandering through space seeking revenge ever since. To see them as wandering Jews in a cosmic diaspora (minus the revenge), in light of the previous Mangog exegesis, is fairly overt.

Especially when, at the climax, the Wanderers are left stranded on a triumphant Ego, though the planet itself is barren and incapable of sustaining life—until Ego (God?) transforms the planet into an Edenic paradise. This parallels the situation of the wandering Jews of the post-Holocaust, who settled in a desert wasteland and transformed it, relatively overnight, into the desert oasis Israel is today. And to complete the Judeao-Christian symbolism, Ego/God takes human form and bequeaths his planet to the Wanderers, telling them "…make of me your home…forever! Until the end of time." Sound familiar?

Sandwiched between these two bombastic classics is a most interesting interlude, a retelling and revision of Thor's origin that forecasts the post-modern approach to super-hero origins, in which heretofore minor and simple plot points are retroactively illuminated and expanded upon, given backstory and exposition. In this case, Kirby and Lee not only explained how Dr. Donald Blake first came to find Thor's hammer years before, but more saliently, extrapolated the nature, duality and coexistence of Thor's and Blake's true identities.

Kirby always made time, in between Asgardian adventures and star-spanning sojourns, for Thor to gambol on earth and interact with its denizens, both human and superhuman. Often these mini-exploits were more lighthearted in tone, and the one in issue #154 is one of the best, both funny and profound. After dispatching a typical band of Kirby suit-and-hat bad guys called Muggers, Incorporated, Thor happens upon a trio of hippies, who Lee has speak in dialogue as pseudo-hip as his Thor dialogue was pseudo-Shakespearean:

> Hippie: "I dig the hair and the guru getup—but that hammer's from nowhere, man!"
> Thor: "Thou deign to scoff at enchanted Mjolnir?"

Yet, just when you think their exchange will degenerate further into broad comedy, Lee issues, through Thor, a challenge to the hippies—and by extension, Marvel's sizeable 1968 college-age readership—to turn off, tune out, and drop back in to society: "'Tis not by dropping out—but by plunging in—into the maelstrom of life itself—that thou shalt find thy wisdom! Yea, thou mayest drop out fore'er—once Hela herself hath come for thee! But, so long as life endures—thou must live it to the full!" As subtle as Thor's hammer those words might seem—and as charmingly dated—they nevertheless reflect accurately Lee's overwhelmingly successful Marvel formula of the 1960s: dynamic super-hero action in the panels kids could revel in, sophisticated dialogue and witty repartee in the word balloons an older audience would gravitate to.

As for the dynamic super-hero action in this volume, it's on bountiful display throughout, with all manner of battle scenes, both on earth and in Asgard and beyond, interspersed with monumental full-pages (mostly of Odin's many regal headdresses) and even a handful of Kirby's patented photo-collages, usually seen in *Fantastic Four.* The art by Kirby and his longtime Thor inker, Vince Colletta, reaches multiple apogees herein, including perhaps the greatest single, iconic image of Thor ever illustrated: the statuesque full-page figure in issue #161. The scratchy, thatched, thin-line inking of Colletta, often maligned in a debate among Kirby aficionados that has never ended, still seems to suit the rough and tumble, rock and mountain mise-en-scene of Thor's world best; an ideal example would be his rendering of the Storm Giant on the cover of issue #159—you can't imagine any inker other than Colletta capturing the gargantuan's grizzled skin and organic textures so perfectly. Yet even the more high-tech and outer space scenes, like the full-pages of both Ego and the Wanderers' spaceship in issue #161, are delineated by Colletta with the same degree of detail and slickness as is often credited to Joe Sinnott, Colletta's counterpart on the more high-tech *Fantastic Four,* whom many of those same Kirby aficionados consider his greatest inker (this writer among them).

Great artwork, great stories = great comics. This collection contains nothing but, and therefore has to be judged as not just some of the best *Thor* comics Kirby and Lee produced during their eight-year run on the title, but as some of the greatest comics produced in the history of the medium itself.

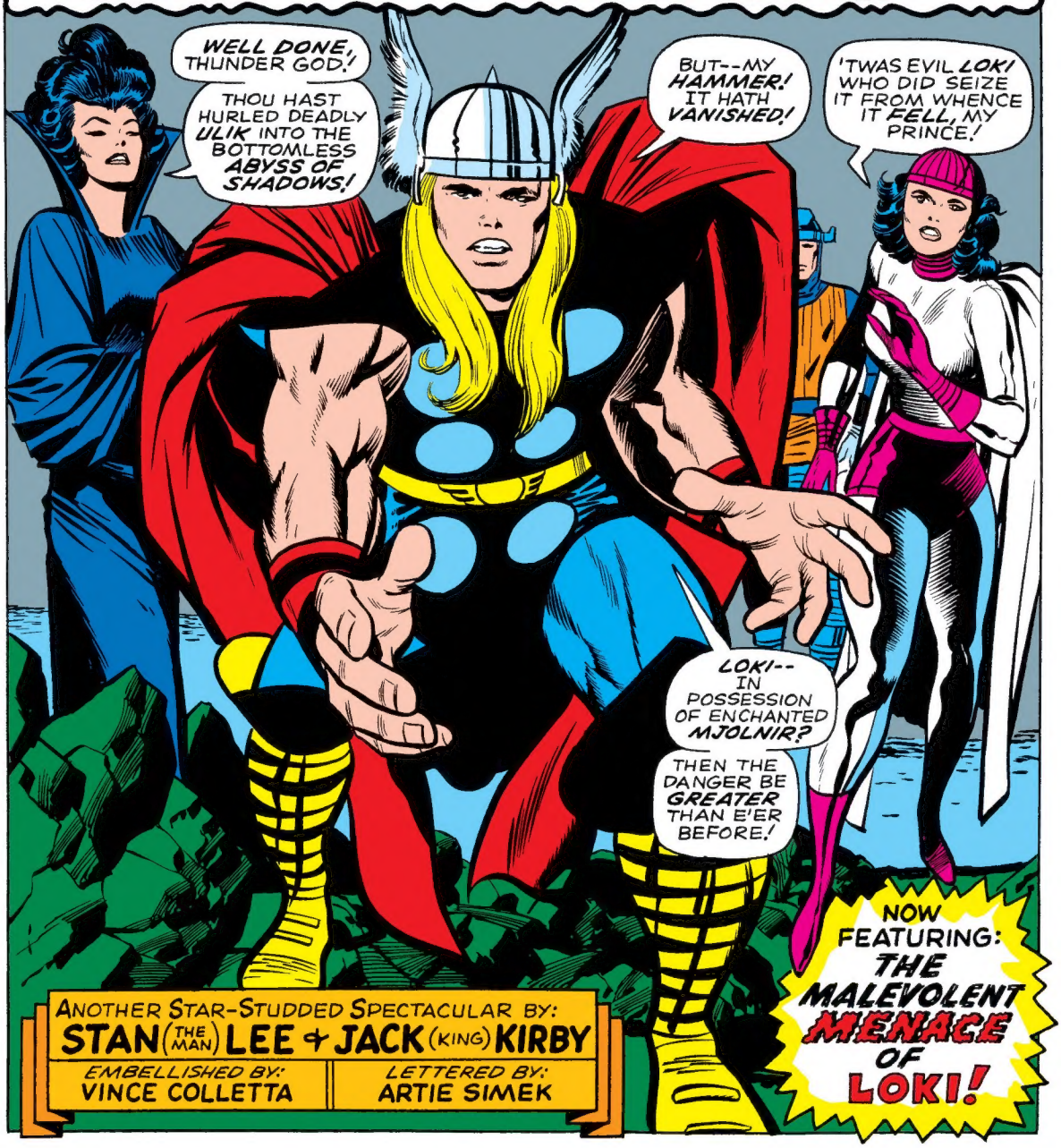
Westport, Connecticut
2008

Arlen Schumer is one of the foremost historians of comic book art, named by Comic Book Artist *magazine in 1998 as "one of the more articulate and enthusiastic advocates of comic book art in America." His coffeetable art book,* The Silver Age of Comic Book Art *(Collectors Press), won the Independent Book Publishers award for best Popular Culture book of 2003. Under the name of The Dynamic Duo Studio, Schumer has been creating award-winning comic book-styled illustrations for the advertising and editorial markets the past two decades.*

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
153 JUNE
--BUT DR. BLAKE CAN DIE!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

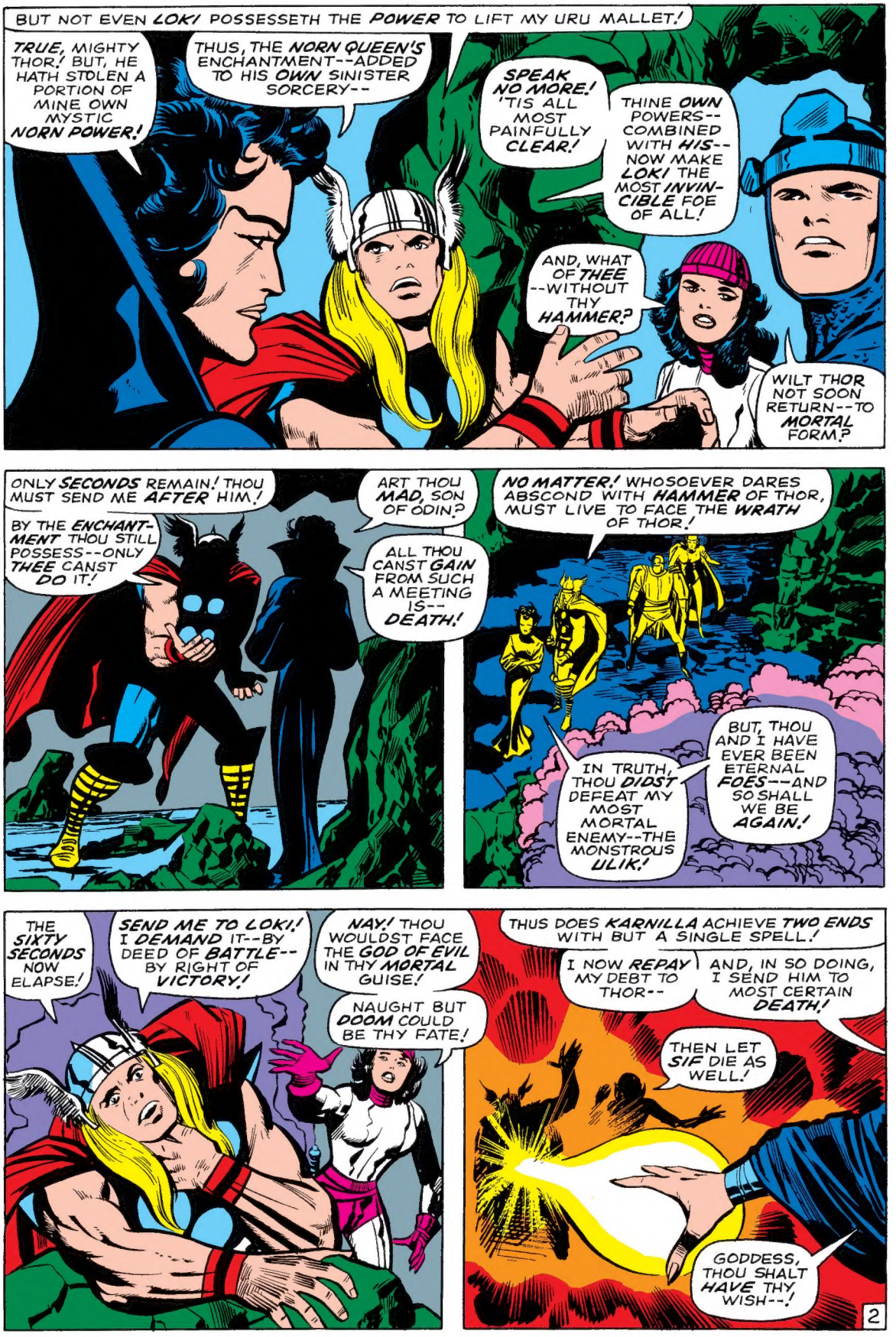
"...BUT DR. BLAKE CAN DIE!"

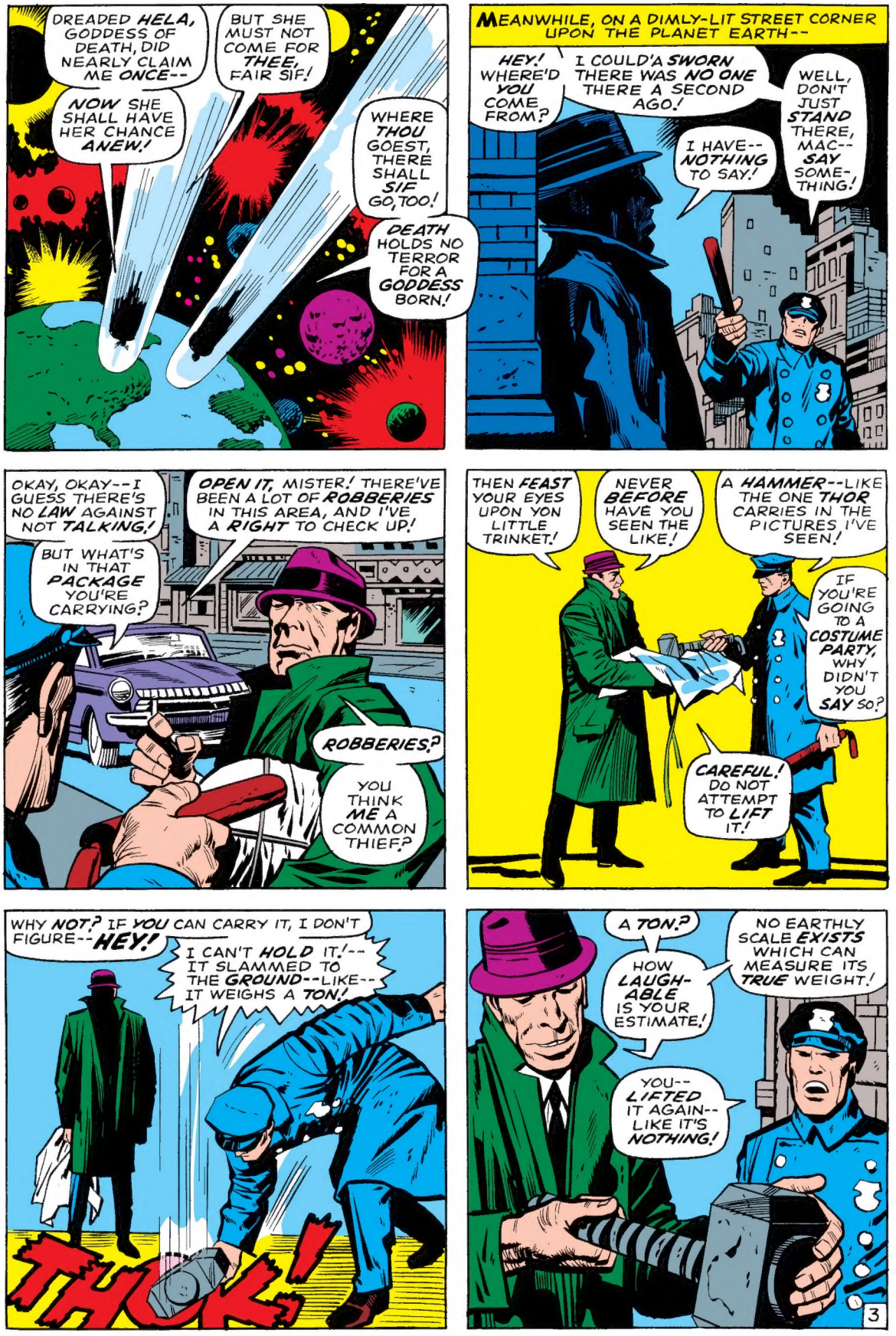

WELL DONE, THUNDER GOD!
THOU HAST HURLED DEADLY ULIK INTO THE BOTTOMLESS ABYSS OF SHADOWS!
BUT--MY HAMMER! IT HATH VANISHED!
'TWAS EVIL LOKI WHO DID SEIZE IT FROM WHENCE IT FELL, MY PRINCE!
LOKI--IN POSSESSION OF ENCHANTED MJOLNIR?
THEN THE DANGER BE GREATER THAN E'ER BEFORE!
NOW FEATURING: THE MALEVOLENT MENACE OF LOKI!

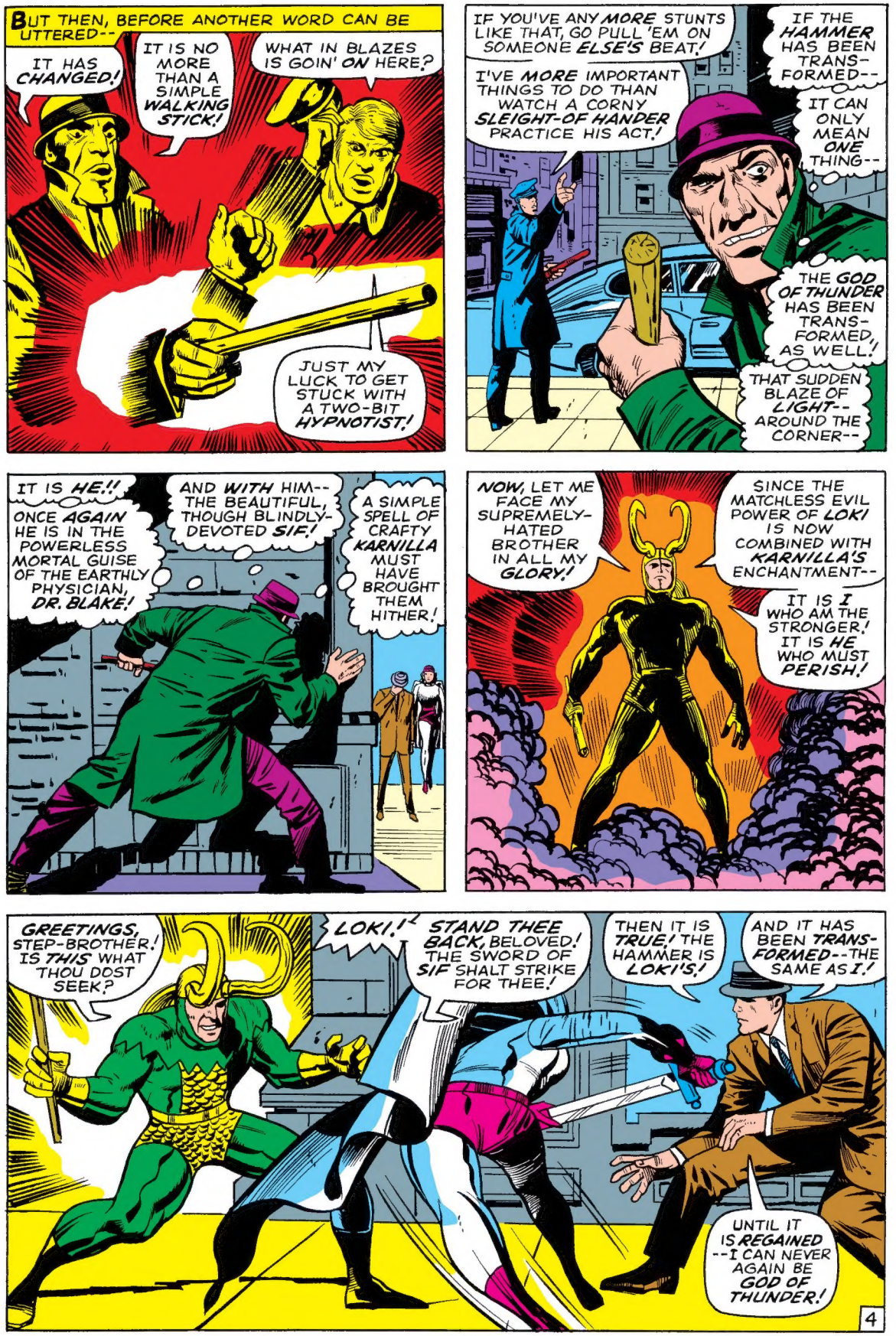
ANOTHER STAR-STUDDED SPECTACULAR BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE & JACK (KING) KIRBY

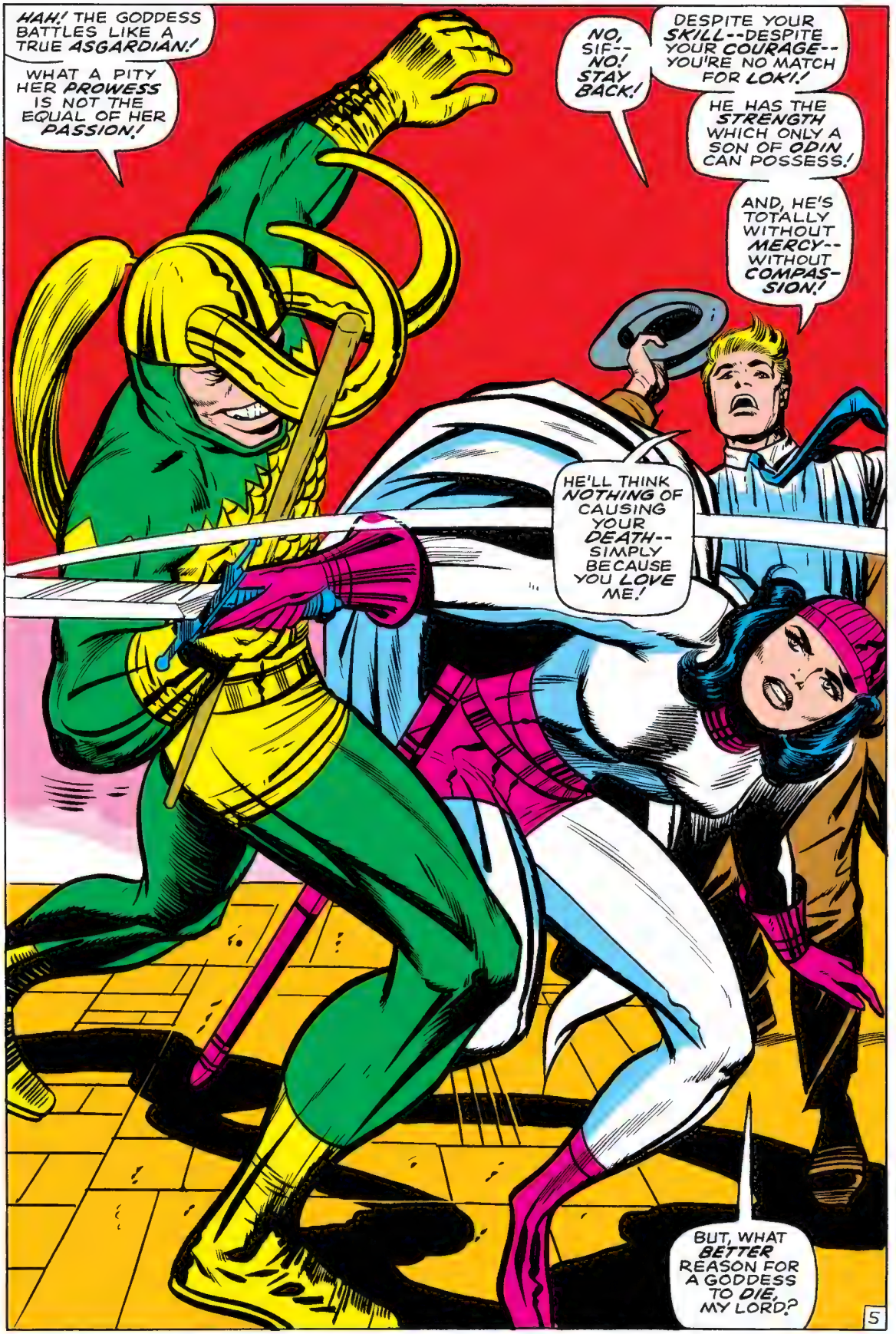
EMBELLISHED BY: VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK


BUT NOT EVEN LOKI POSSESSETH THE POWER TO LIFT MY URU MALLET!
TRUE, MIGHTY THOR! BUT, HE HATH STOLEN A PORTION OF MINE OWN MYSTIC NORN POWER!
THUS, THE NORN QUEEN'S ENCHANTMENT--ADDED TO HIS OWN SINISTER SORCERY--
SPEAK NO MORE! 'TIS ALL MOST PAINFULLY CLEAR!
THINE OWN POWERS--COMBINED WITH HIS--NOW MAKE LOKI THE MOST INVINCIBLE FOE OF ALL!
AND, WHAT OF THEE--WITHOUT THY HAMMER?
WILT THOR NOT SOON RETURN--TO MORTAL FORM?
ONLY SECONDS REMAIN! THOU MUST SEND ME AFTER HIM!
BY THE ENCHANTMENT THOU STILL POSSESS--ONLY THEE CANST DO IT!
ART THOU MAD, SON OF ODIN?
ALL THOU CANST GAIN FROM SUCH A MEETING IS--DEATH!
NO MATTER! WHOSOEVER DARES ABSCOND WITH HAMMER OF THOR, MUST LIVE TO FACE THE WRATH OF THOR!
IN TRUTH, THOU DIDST DEFEAT MY MOST MORTAL ENEMY--THE MONSTROUS ULIK!
BUT, THOU AND I HAVE EVER BEEN ETERNAL FOES--AND SO SHALL WE BE AGAIN!
THE SIXTY SECONDS NOW ELAPSE!
SEND ME TO LOKI! I DEMAND IT--BY DEED OF BATTLE--BY RIGHT OF VICTORY!
NAY! THOU WOULDST FACE THE GOD OF EVIL IN THY MORTAL GUISE!
NAUGHT BUT DOOM COULD BE THY FATE!
THUS DOES KARNILLA ACHIEVE TWO ENDS WITH BUT A SINGLE SPELL!
I NOW REPAY MY DEBT TO THOR--
AND, IN SO DOING, I SEND HIM TO MOST CERTAIN DEATH!
THEN LET SIF DIE AS WELL!
GODDESS, THOU SHALT HAVE THY WISH--!
2


DREADED HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH, DID NEARLY CLAIM ME ONCE--
BUT SHE MUST NOT COME FOR THEE, FAIR SIF!
NOW SHE SHALL HAVE HER CHANCE ANEW!
WHERE THOU GOEST, THERE SHALL SIF GO, TOO!
DEATH HOLDS NO TERROR FOR A GODDESS BORN!
MEANWHILE, ON A DIMLY-LIT STREET CORNER UPON THE PLANET EARTH--
HEY! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
I COULD'A SWORN THERE WAS NO ONE THERE A SECOND AGO!
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE, MAC-- SAY SOMETHING!
I HAVE-- NOTHING TO SAY!
OKAY, OKAY--I GUESS THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST NOT TALKING!
OPEN IT, MISTER! THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF ROBBERIES IN THIS AREA, AND I'VE A RIGHT TO CHECK UP!
BUT WHAT'S IN THAT PACKAGE YOU'RE CARRYING?
ROBBERIES?
YOU THINK ME A COMMON THIEF?
THEN FEAST YOUR EYES UPON YON LITTLE TRINKET!
NEVER BEFORE HAVE YOU SEEN THE LIKE!
A HAMMER--LIKE THE ONE THOR CARRIES IN THE PICTURES I'VE SEEN!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO A COSTUME PARTY, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
CAREFUL! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO LIFT IT!
WHY NOT? IF YOU CAN CARRY IT, I DON'T FIGURE-- HEY!
I CAN'T HOLD IT!-- IT SLAMMED TO THE GROUND--LIKE-- IT WEIGHS A TON!
THUK!
A TON?
HOW LAUGHABLE IS YOUR ESTIMATE!
NO EARTHLY SCALE EXISTS WHICH CAN MEASURE ITS TRUE WEIGHT!
YOU-- LIFTED IT AGAIN-- LIKE IT'S NOTHING!
3


BUT THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--
IT HAS CHANGED!
IT IS NO MORE THAN A SIMPLE WALKING STICK!
WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOIN' ON HERE?
JUST MY LUCK TO GET STUCK WITH A TWO-BIT HYPNOTIST!
IF YOU'VE ANY MORE STUNTS LIKE THAT, GO PULL 'EM ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEAT!
I'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN WATCH A CORNY SLEIGHT-OF HANDER PRACTICE HIS ACT!
IF THE HAMMER HAS BEEN TRANS-FORMED--
IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING--
THE GOD OF THUNDER HAS BEEN TRANS-FORMED, AS WELL!
THAT SUDDEN BLAZE OF LIGHT-- AROUND THE CORNER--
IT IS HE!!
ONCE AGAIN HE IS IN THE POWERLESS MORTAL GUISE OF THE EARTHLY PHYSICIAN, DR. BLAKE!
AND WITH HIM-- THE BEAUTIFUL, THOUGH BLINDLY-DEVOTED SIF!
A SIMPLE SPELL OF CRAFTY KARNILLA MUST HAVE BROUGHT THEM HITHER!
NOW, LET ME FACE MY SUPREMELY-HATED BROTHER IN ALL MY GLORY!
SINCE THE MATCHLESS EVIL POWER OF LOKI IS NOW COMBINED WITH KARNILLA'S ENCHANTMENT--
IT IS I WHO AM THE STRONGER! IT IS HE WHO MUST PERISH!
GREETINGS, STEP-BROTHER! IS THIS WHAT THOU DOST SEEK?
LOKI!
STAND THEE BACK, BELOVED! THE SWORD OF SIF SHALT STRIKE FOR THEE!
THEN IT IS TRUE! THE HAMMER IS LOKI'S!
AND IT HAS BEEN TRANS-FORMED--THE SAME AS I!
UNTIL IT IS REGAINED --I CAN NEVER AGAIN BE GOD OF THUNDER!
4

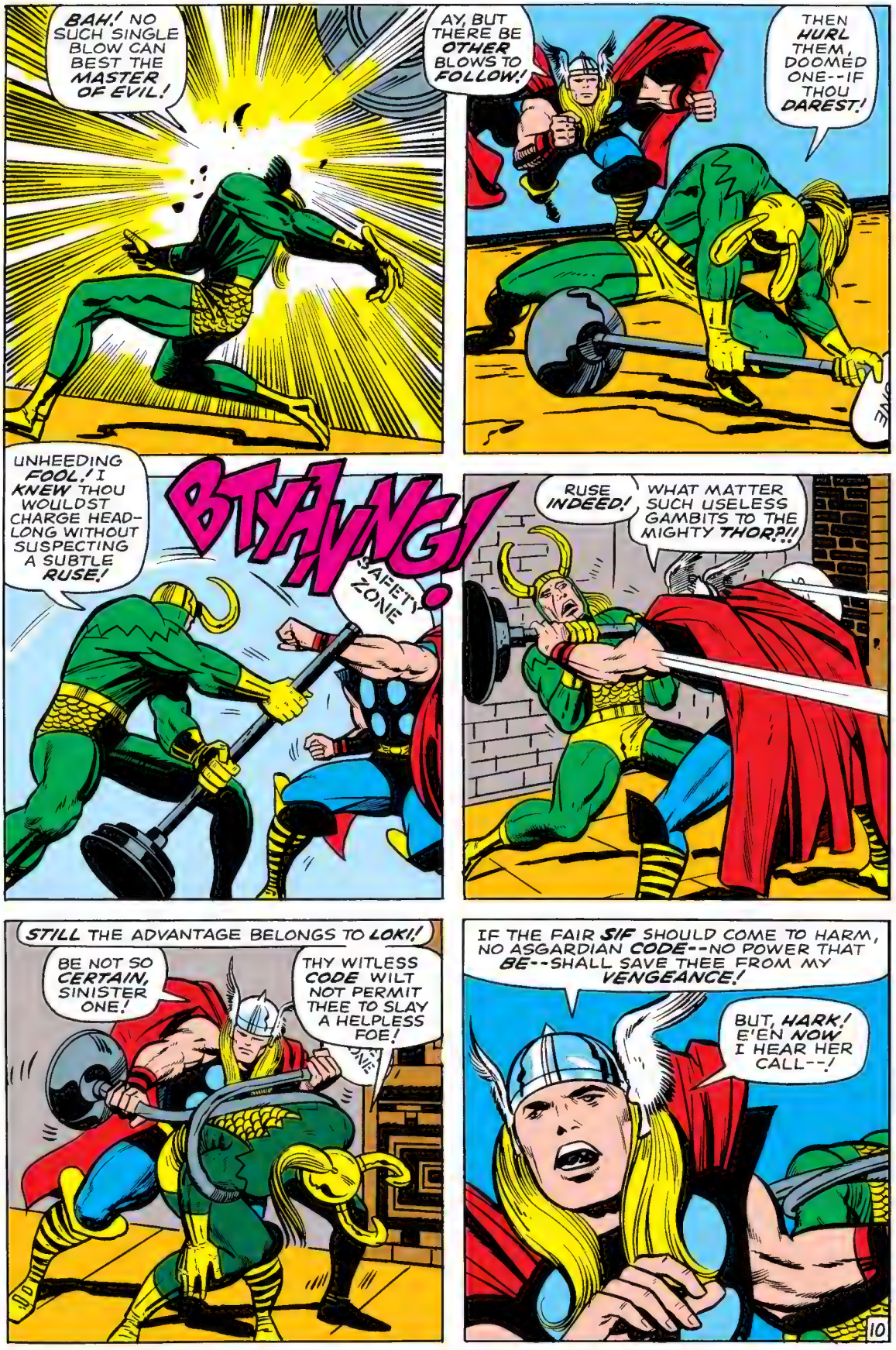

HAH! THE GODDESS BATTLES LIKE A TRUE ASGARDIAN!
WHAT A PITY HER PROWESS IS NOT THE EQUAL OF HER PASSION!
NO, SIF-- NO! STAY BACK!
DESPITE YOUR SKILL--DESPITE YOUR COURAGE--YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR LOKI!
HE HAS THE STRENGTH WHICH ONLY A SON OF ODIN CAN POSSESS!
AND, HE'S TOTALLY WITHOUT MERCY--WITHOUT COMPASSION!
HE'LL THINK NOTHING OF CAUSING YOUR DEATH--SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME!
BUT, WHAT BETTER REASON FOR A GODDESS TO DIE, MY LORD?
5

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE DAUGHTER OF ASGARD!
BUT NOW, I WEARY OF THIS GAME--!
HIS ENCHANTED POWER IS TRULY BEYOND DESCRIPTION!
WITH NAUGHT BUT A WOODEN WALKING STICK, HE EFFORTLESSLY HOLDS MY BLADE AT BAY!
BEHOLD, ACCURSED ONE!
THOUGH THOU DOTH GAZE AT ME WITH THE EYES OF A MORTAL--
I KNOW 'TIS THE GOD OF THUNDER THAT SHALL WITNESS WHAT BEFALLS--!
DON'T DO IT, LOKI!
I WARN YOU!
FOOL! DOTH THOU PRESUME TO WARN THY MASTER?
THERE! SINCE THE FOOLHARDY SIF HATH WON THY HEART--'TIS FITTING THAT THOU SHALT HAVE HER!
AND, 'TIS EQUALLY FITTING--
--THAT THOU SHALT PERISH-- TOGETHER!

NO! HOW MUCH GREATER WILL BE THY SORROW--IF THE FEMALE FALLS --BEFORE THINE EYES!
A MYSTIC NORN BLAST--AIMED DIRECTLY AT HELPLESS SIF!
BE THANKFUL, MORTAL!
I SHALL LET THEE LIVE--TILL THOU HAST SEEN THY LADY BREATHE HER LAST!
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE--HOPELESS AS IT MAY SEEM--
IF I CAN TAKE HIM UNAWARES!
HE'D NEVER EXPECT--THE LAME DR. BLAKE--TO ATTACK HIM!
WHAT IS THIS,?!!
ART THOU STRICKEN WITH HUMAN MADNESS?
THOU PRESUMEST TO ATTACK ALL-POWERFUL LOKI WITH NAUGHT BUT A FRAGILE GARMENT?!!
YOU COLD-HEARTED ABOMINATION--
I'D ATTACK YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS--IF I HAD TO CRAWL OVER HOT COALS--!
KNOW YOU THIS--
I COULD ANNIHILATE THEE WITH BUT A SINGLE GESTURE!
BUT, YOU DIDN'T--AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!
THY WALKING STICK!
'TWAS THY CANE THOU SOUGHT--NOT A BLOW AT LOKI!
AND, SO LONG AS I HOLD IT ONCE MORE--
NO POWER CAN WREST IT FROM ME!

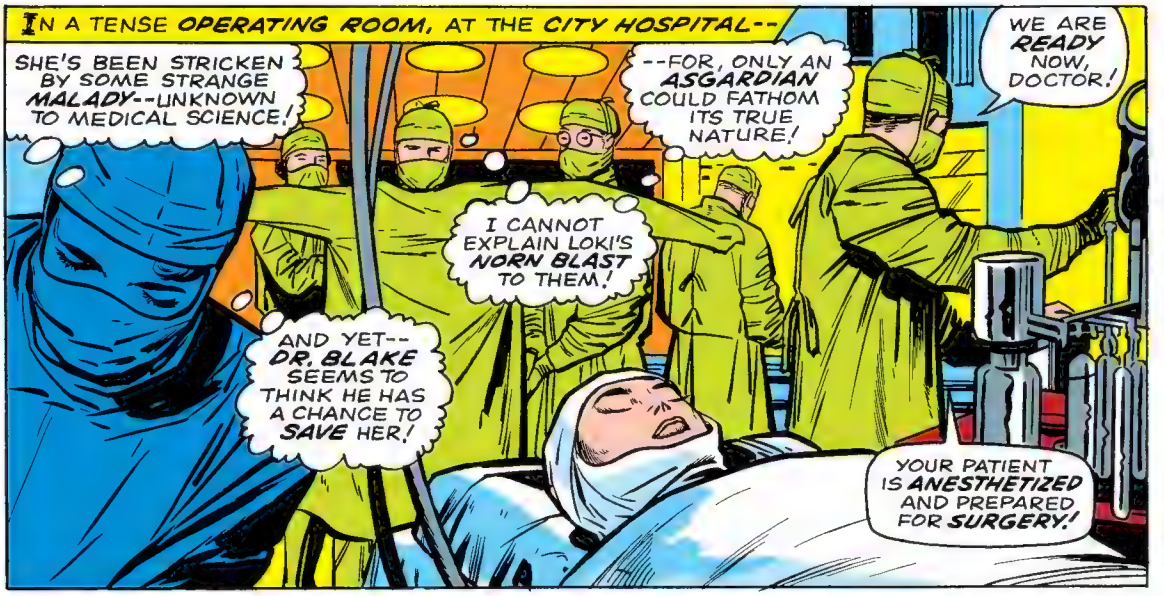
YOU LIE!!
NO MORTAL IS A MATCH FOR THE MIGHTY LOKI!
BUT WITH MY CANE-- I AM MORTAL NO LONGER!
FOR, ALL I NEED DO IS STRIKE IT-- JUST ONCE--!
LIKE THIS!!
ZTAK
THOR!!
NAY, SON OF ODIN!
THE STRENGTH OF LOKI IS ALMOST THE EQUAL OF THINE OWN--
AND NOW--'TIS COUPLED WITH THE ENCHANTED POWER OF THE NORN!!
AND NOW-- EVIL ONE-- THOU SHALT PAY--MOST DEARLY-- FOR WHAT THOU HAST WROUGHT!
NONE BUT LOKI SHALL TRIUMPH THIS DAY!
NOT WHILST THOR STILL LIVES!
THEN THOU SHALT LIVE NO MORE!

LET BUT ONE MYSTIC RAY OF DISSOLVEMENT STRIKE THY PERSON, AND-- -UMMHHH!-
LET THE STING OF MY HAMMER PUT AN END TO THINE EMPTY THREATS!
AND NOW--MOST VILE OF VILLAINS--WHO WOULD UNLEASH THINE ONSLAUGHT AGAINST A MAIDEN--!
THOU MAYEST EXPECT AS LITTLE MERCY FROM THOR AS THOU DIDST GRANT TO MY LADY SIF!
AGAIN THOU HAST FORGOTTEN THE NEW POWER OF LOKI--
THE POWER THAT SHALL NOW DESTROY THEE!
CRA-THK!
BASE BRAGGART!! THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL GIVE THEE THY REPLY --IN KIND--!
FTOOOK!


BAH! NO SUCH SINGLE BLOW CAN BEST THE MASTER OF EVIL!
AY, BUT THERE BE OTHER BLOWS TO FOLLOW!
THEN HURL THEM, DOOMED ONE--IF THOU DAREST!
UNHEEDING FOOL! I KNEW THOU WOULDST CHARGE HEADLONG WITHOUT SUSPECTING A SUBTLE RUSE!
BTYANG!
SAFETY ZONE
RUSE INDEED!
WHAT MATTER SUCH USELESS GAMBITS TO THE MIGHTY THOR?!!
STILL THE ADVANTAGE BELONGS TO LOKI!
BE NOT SO CERTAIN, SINISTER ONE!
THY WITLESS CODE WILT NOT PERMIT THEE TO SLAY A HELPLESS FOE!
IF THE FAIR SIF SHOULD COME TO HARM, NO ASGARDIAN CODE--NO POWER THAT BE--SHALL SAVE THEE FROM MY VENGEANCE!
BUT, HARK! E'EN NOW I HEAR HER CALL--!

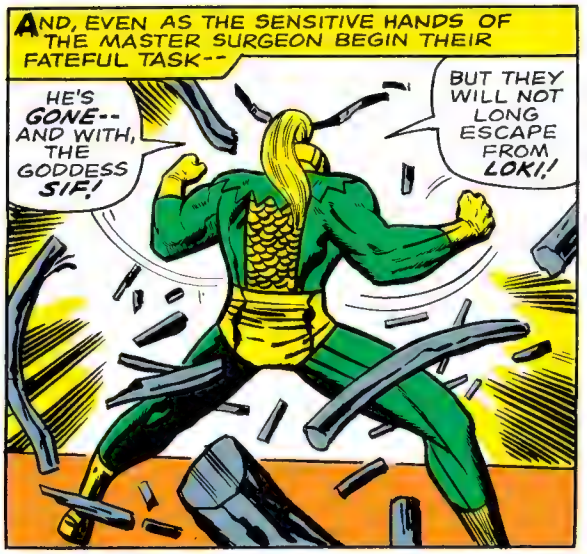
MY LADY-- I AM WITH THEE!
THOR! I SHOULD'A FIGURED ANY GAL DRESSED LIKE HER WOULD BE TIED-UP WITH THE THUNDER GOD!
SHE'S IN A BAD WAY, MISTER!
SHE BE INJURED MORE SEVERELY THAN I SUPPOSED!
SUMMON THOU AN AMBULANCE! EVERY PASSING SECOND IS MOST CRUCIAL!
TOO BAD THE ONLY DOCTOR IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD IS OUT ON CALL NOW!
GET THEE GONE, MORTAL! THERE IS TIME FOR NO MORE TALK!
HE HATH DEPARTED!
NOW, 'TIS NOT THE MIGHT OF THOR THAT BE NEEDED--
THUS, I TAP MY ENCHANTED MALLET TWICE SHARPLY ON THE GROUND--!
AND, BY THE URU POWER CONTAINED THEREIN--
--I BECOME DON BLAKE ONCE AGAIN!
FOR ONLY THE SKILL OF A TRAINED PHYSICIAN CAN SAVE MY BELOVED NOW!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE FAR DISTANT WORLD WHERE IMMORTALS DWELL--
YET, I CANNOT DRAW SWORD AGAINST A MAIDEN--
ALAS THAT THOU SHOULD SO DESPISE ME!
MIGHTY THOR DIDST THINK THOU DID HIM FAVOR SENDING HIM EARTHWARD TO EVIL LOKI!
--THOUGH NE'ER WAS ONE SO DESERVING OF SUCH A FATE!
FOR THE HEART OF KARNILLA LOOKS UPON BRAVE BALDER WITH UNEXPECTED FAVOR!
BUT BALDER KNOWS THOU HOPED TO DISPATCH HIM TO HIS DEATH!
IF NOT FOR THINE AID, THE GROTESQUE ULIK MIGHT HAVE SLAIN US ALL!
BUT NOW--HE SHALL FALL FOREVER--INTO THE BOTTOMLESS CHASM!
I BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE FATE OF THOR, MY LADY!
11

THOUGH THE MENACE OF ULIK WAS GREAT AS ANY EVER KNOWN --IT NOW IS ENDED--
NOT TO THEE, NOBLE BALDER!
EVEN THE QUEEN OF THE NORNS MAY HOLD GRATITUDE DEEP WITHIN HER HEART!
BUT THOU, KARNELLA, ART MORE DANGEROUS NOW THAN E'ER BEFORE!
--GRATITUDE FOR THY HELP IN BANISHING THE INDESTRUCTIBLE ULIK!
BUT, EVEN AS THE MYSTERIOUS SORCERESS SPEAKS--
THIS CANNOT BE THE FATE OF THE MIGHTIEST TROLL OF ALL!
THE MATCHLESS STRENGTH OF ULIK SHALL SAVE HIM FROM A FALL ETERNAL!
NO ARMS BUT MINE CAN DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
WITH ALL MY POWER-- I MUST REACH OUT-- AND SEIZE--AND THEN HOLD FAST!!
I DID IT!
I HOLD A LEDGE WITHIN MY HANDS!
BELOW ME--THE WALLS GROW SMOOTH AS GLASS!!
HAD I MISSED THIS CHANCE-- I WOULD HAVE FALLEN-- FOREVER!
BUT ULIK DID NOT MISS!!
NOW LET THE UNIVERSE BEWARE!!
BEYOND THE LEDGE --AN OPENING--A DEEP AND SILENT CAVERN!!
WHAT MANNER OF STRANGE, MYSTIC RIDDLE NOW CONFOUNDS ME?
--FILLED WITH ROCKS--THAT SHINE WITH BLINDING LIGHT!
WE SHALL ONE DAY LEARN THE ANSWER TO ULIK'S STARTLED QUERY-- BUT FIRST, ANOTHER PROBLEM DOTH AWAIT US--
12

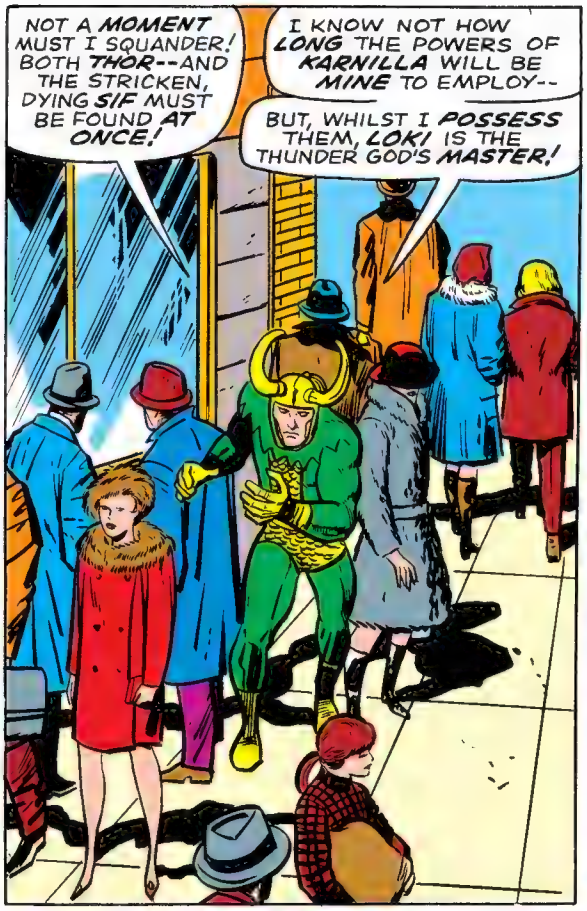

IN A TENSE OPERATING ROOM, AT THE CITY HOSPITAL--
SHE'S BEEN STRICKEN BY SOME STRANGE MALADY--UNKNOWN TO MEDICAL SCIENCE!
--FOR, ONLY AN ASGARDIAN COULD FATHOM ITS TRUE NATURE!
WE ARE READY NOW, DOCTOR!
I CANNOT EXPLAIN LOKI'S NORN BLAST TO THEM!
AND YET--DR. BLAKE SEEMS TO THINK HE HAS A CHANCE TO SAVE HER!
YOUR PATIENT IS ANESTHETIZED AND PREPARED FOR SURGERY!

ONLY THE GODLY KNOWLEDGE OF THOR--COMBINED WITH THE SURGICAL SKILL OF DR. BLAKE--CAN SAVE HER NOW!
WE WILL BEGIN--AT ONCE!

SOONER OR LATER LOKI WILL FREE HIMSELF--AND FIND ME AGAIN!
IF I TRANSFORM MYSELF TO THOR BEFORE I'M DONE--IT WILL MEAN--SIF'S DEATH!
I PRAY I CAN COMPLETE THE OPERATION BEFORE THAT MOMENT COMES!
THE OPERATION IS SO DELICATE--THAT I CAN'T PERFORM IT WITH HIS MIGHTY FINGERS!

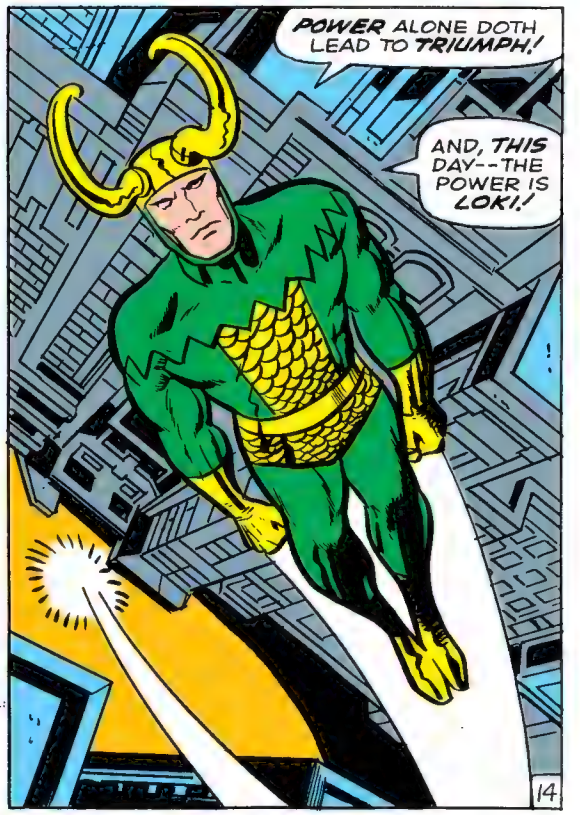

AND, EVEN AS THE SENSITIVE HANDS OF THE MASTER SURGEON BEGIN THEIR FATEFUL TASK--
HE'S GONE--AND WITH, THE GODDESS SIF!
BUT THEY WILL NOT LONG ESCAPE FROM LOKI!

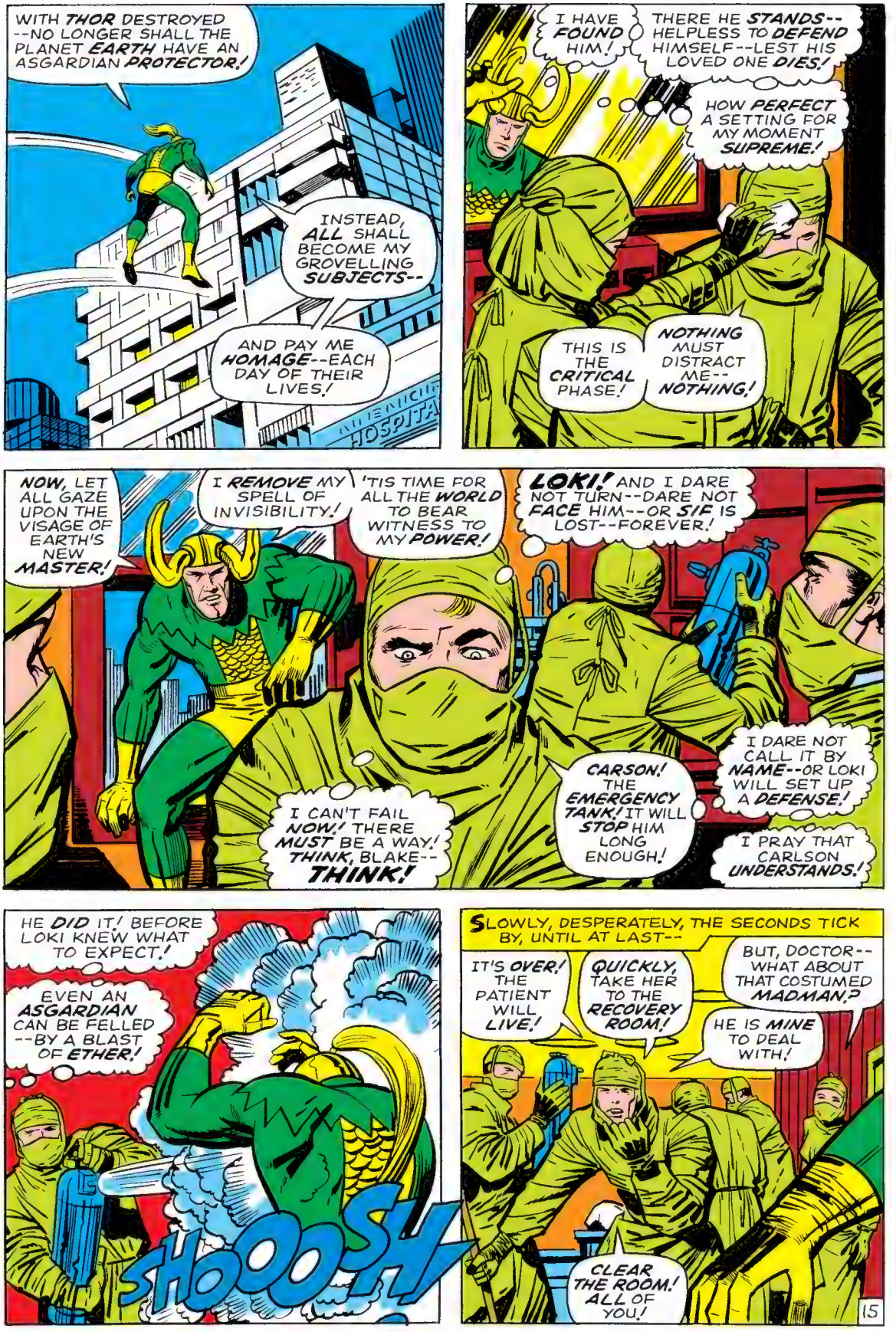
A SIMPLE NORN SPELL NOW RENDERS ME INVISIBLE TO THE PUNY, UNCOMPREHENDING MORTALS--
--WHO SHALL ONE DAY PAY DREADFUL HOMAGE TO THE PRINCE OF EVIL!


NOT A MOMENT MUST I SQUANDER! BOTH THOR--AND THE STRICKEN, DYING SIF MUST BE FOUND AT ONCE!
I KNOW NOT HOW LONG THE POWERS OF KARNILLA WILL BE MINE TO EMPLOY--
BUT, WHILST I POSSESS THEM, LOKI IS THE THUNDER GOD'S MASTER!

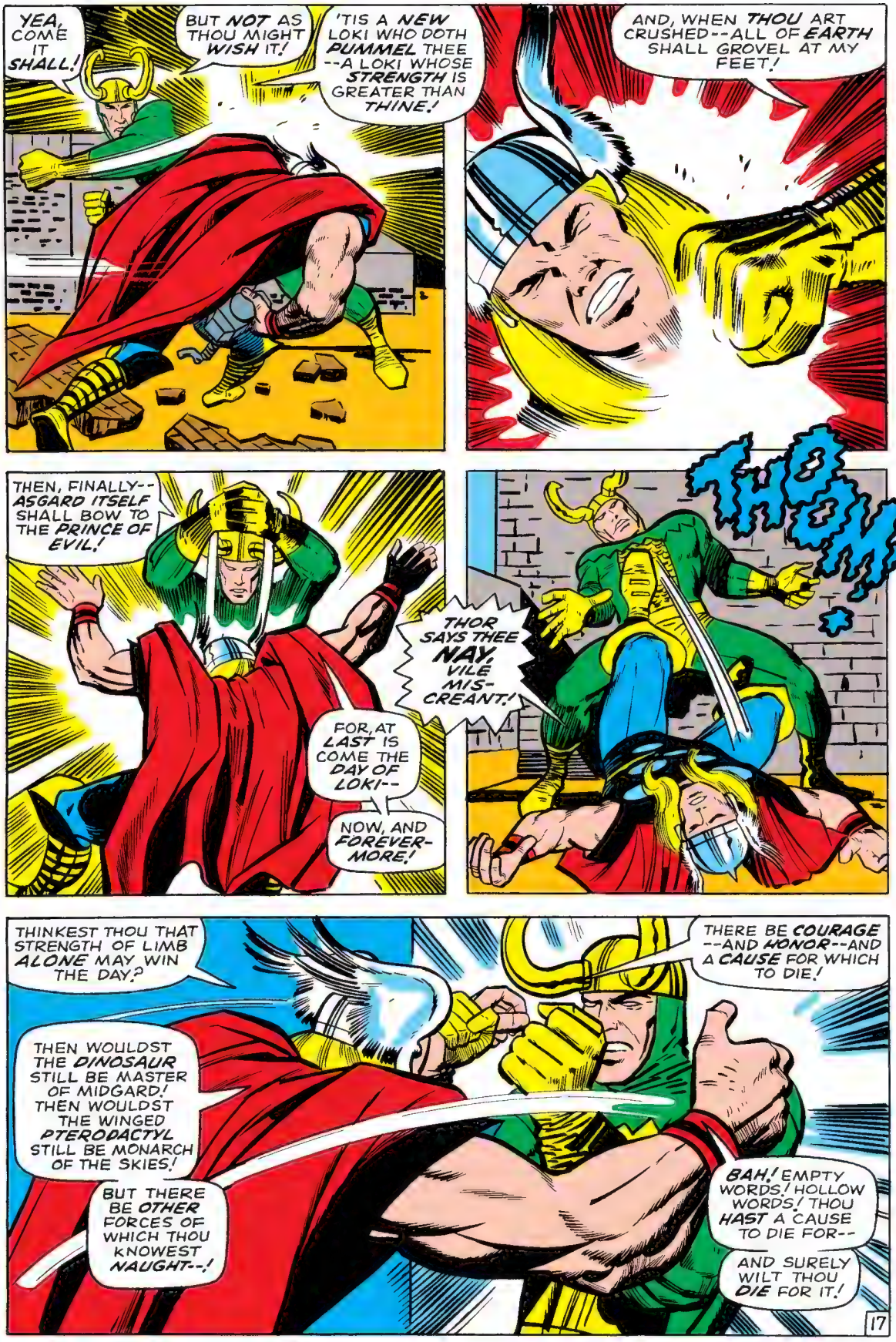
THERE-- WITHIN THE MEMORY CELL OF YON HUMAN'S BRAIN, I HAVE FOUND WHAT I SEEK!
I NEED MERELY HASTEN TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL!

MY LONG-AWAITED VICTORY NOW DRAWS SO NEAR--
I CAN VERILY SAVOR THE TASTE OF ITS BITTER SWEETNESS!


POWER ALONE DOTH LEAD TO TRIUMPH!
AND, THIS DAY--THE POWER IS LOKI!

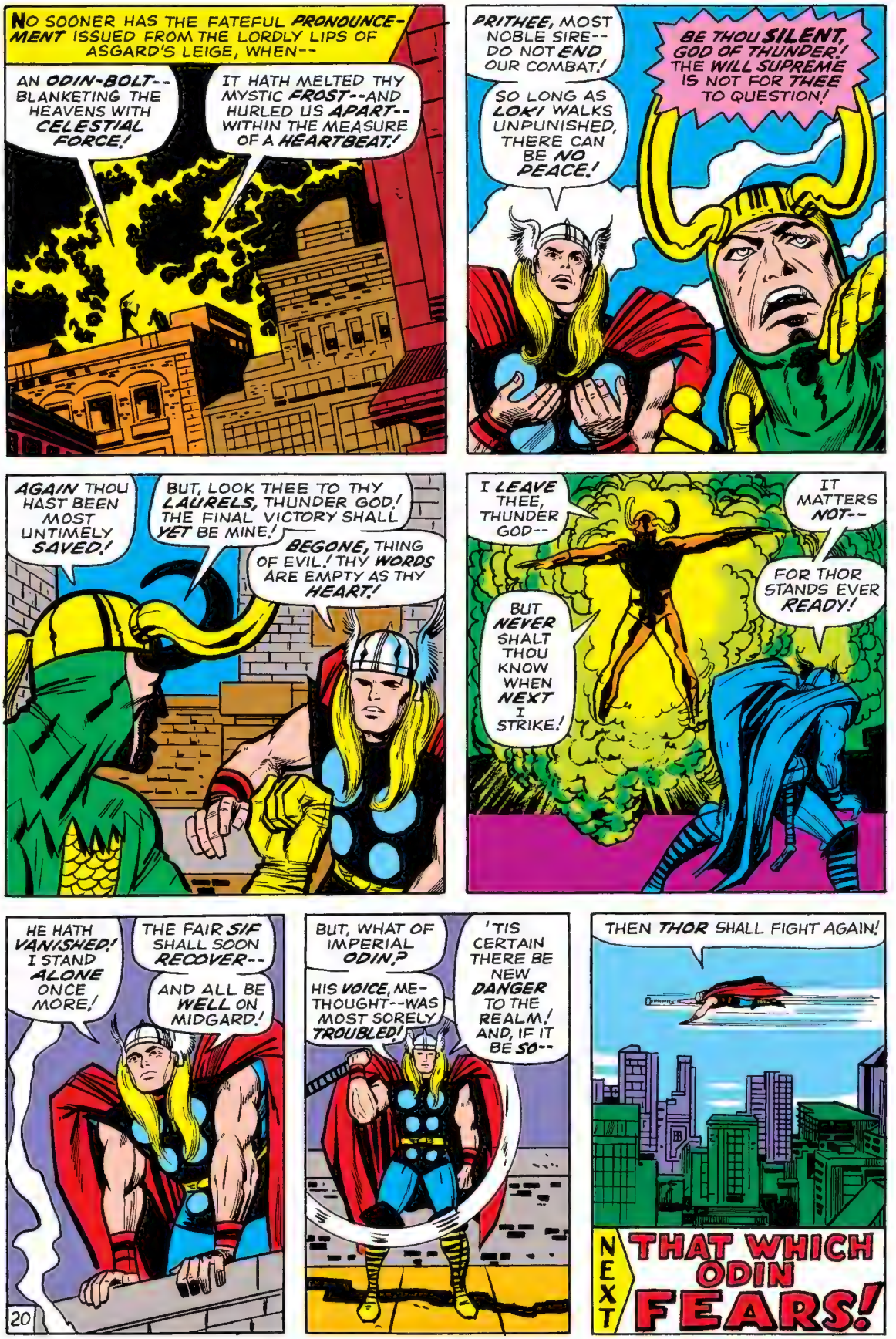

WITH THOR DESTROYED --NO LONGER SHALL THE PLANET EARTH HAVE AN ASGARDIAN PROTECTOR!
INSTEAD, ALL SHALL BECOME MY GROVELLING SUBJECTS--
AND PAY ME HOMAGE--EACH DAY OF THEIR LIVES!
I HAVE FOUND HIM!
THERE HE STANDS--HELPLESS TO DEFEND HIMSELF--LEST HIS LOVED ONE DIES!
HOW PERFECT A SETTING FOR MY MOMENT SUPREME!
THIS IS THE CRITICAL PHASE!
NOTHING MUST DISTRACT ME--NOTHING!
NOW, LET ALL GAZE UPON THE VISAGE OF EARTH'S NEW MASTER!
I REMOVE MY SPELL OF INVISIBILITY!
'TIS TIME FOR ALL THE WORLD TO BEAR WITNESS TO MY POWER!
LOKI! AND I DARE NOT TURN--DARE NOT FACE HIM--OR SIF IS LOST--FOREVER!
I CAN'T FAIL NOW! THERE MUST BE A WAY! THINK, BLAKE--THINK!
CARSON! THE EMERGENCY TANK! IT WILL STOP HIM LONG ENOUGH!
I DARE NOT CALL IT BY NAME--OR LOKI WILL SET UP A DEFENSE!
I PRAY THAT CARSON UNDERSTANDS!
HE DID IT! BEFORE LOKI KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT!
EVEN AN ASGARDIAN CAN BE FELLED --BY A BLAST OF ETHER!
SHOOOSH
SLOWLY, DESPERATELY, THE SECONDS TICK BY, UNTIL AT LAST--
IT'S OVER! THE PATIENT WILL LIVE!
QUICKLY, TAKE HER TO THE RECOVERY ROOM!
BUT, DOCTOR--WHAT ABOUT THAT COSTUMED MADMAN?
HE IS MINE TO DEAL WITH!
CLEAR THE ROOM! ALL OF YOU!

WE CAN'T LEAVE DR. BLAKE ALONE WITH A DANGEROUS PSYCHOPATH!
DON'T PANIC, NURSE! BLAKE IS NO FOOL!
HE MUST KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR--NO MATTER WHAT YOU SEE--OR SUSPECT--
DON'T ENTER THIS ROOM FOR THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES!
THAT INTRUDER IS PROBABLY A MENTAL PATIENT OF HIS!
BLAKE WILL KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HIM!
SO! YOU SAVED THE GODDESS!
WELL, NO MATTER! IT IS THOU WHO ART THE PREY!
NO, LOKI --IT ISN'T DR. BLAKE--
THAK!
'TIS THOR--SON OF ODIN--GOD OF THUNDER!
I, TOO, AM SON OF ODIN--
AND SOON--THE GOD OF EVIL SHALL SHARE THAT TITLE WITH NONE!
COME THEN, BASE-HEARTED BLACKGUARD!
WHATE'ER BEFALLS--WE SHALL NOT WAGE BATTLE NEAR THE SICK AND AILING!
EVER ART THOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF OTHERS--
AND EVER HAS IT BEEN THINE OWN UNDOING!
SPEAK NOT TO ME OF BASE UNDOING!
THY VERY LIFE HATH BEEN A WASTE-- A MOCKERY--
A GRIM AND SENSELESS TRAVESTY-- SIGNIFYING NAUGHT!
AND NOW MUST COME --THE FATAL RECKONING!
16


YEA, COME IT SHALL!
BUT NOT AS THOU MIGHT WISH IT!
'TIS A NEW LOKI WHO DOTH PUMMEL THEE --A LOKI WHOSE STRENGTH IS GREATER THAN THINE!
AND, WHEN THOU ART CRUSHED--ALL OF EARTH SHALL GROVEL AT MY FEET!
THEN, FINALLY-- ASGARD ITSELF SHALL BOW TO THE PRINCE OF EVIL!
FOR, AT LAST IS COME THE DAY OF LOKI--
NOW, AND FOREVER-MORE!
THOR SAYS THEE NAY, VILE MIS-CREANT!
THOM
THINKEST THOU THAT STRENGTH OF LIMB ALONE MAY WIN THE DAY?
THEN WOULDST THE DINOSAUR STILL BE MASTER OF MIDGARD! THEN WOULDST THE WINGED PTERODACTYL STILL BE MONARCH OF THE SKIES!
BUT THERE BE OTHER FORCES OF WHICH THOU KNOWEST NAUGHT--!
THERE BE COURAGE --AND HONOR--AND A CAUSE FOR WHICH TO DIE!
BAH! EMPTY WORDS! HOLLOW WORDS! THOU HAST A CAUSE TO DIE FOR--
AND SURELY WILT THOU DIE FOR IT!

SEE HOW EFFORTLESSLY I TURN THEE INTO LIVING FROST!
KEEP THINE HONOR--AND THY CAUSE! THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE NORNS BE ALL THAT LOKI NEEDETH!
NOT SO, MOST HEINOUS BETRAYER!
'TIS MIGHTY THOR WHO BE GOD OF THUNDER--'TIS I WHO BE MASTER OF THE ELEMENTS!
YON SPELL OF FREEZING COLD CANNOT AFFECT MY VENGEFUL LIMBS!
BUT, WHAT OF THEE?
LET US SEE HOW LOKI FARES AGAINST MINE ICY BLOWS!
BUT THEN, IN FABLED ASGARD, A TROUBLED VOICE--DEEPER THAN A THOUSAND DRUMS--BOOMS OUT--
MINE EYES HAVE SEEN ENOW!
HOW IT DOTH GRIEVE MY REGAL HEART TO WITNESS SUCH A SIGHT!
TWO SONS HAVE I! ONE, MOST TRULY NOBLE OF ALL THE REALM--THE OTHER, VILLAINY INCARNATE!
AND YET, THEY BOTH BE BLOOD OF ODIN'S BLOOD--FLESH OF ODIN'S FLESH!
AY, E'EN OMNIPOTENCE DOTH HAVE ITS SORROW!

THOUGH I BE POWER ABSOLUTE IN EVERY MANNER--
STILL IS THE PROVINCE OF A LIVING SOUL BEYOND MY REGAL REACH!
BUT, I MAY INDULGE MY GRIEF NO LONGER! YON BLUDGEONING BATTLE, WHICH DOTH SORELY PAIN MINE EYES--MUST CEASE FORTHWITH!
A FAR GREATER DANGER--MOST DIRE AND DEADLY--DOTH APPROACH THE HALLOWED REALM!
IT MUST BE FACED--AND MET--AND FOUGHT--BY ALL WHO PAY ME HOMAGE!
SO SPEAKETH ODIN!

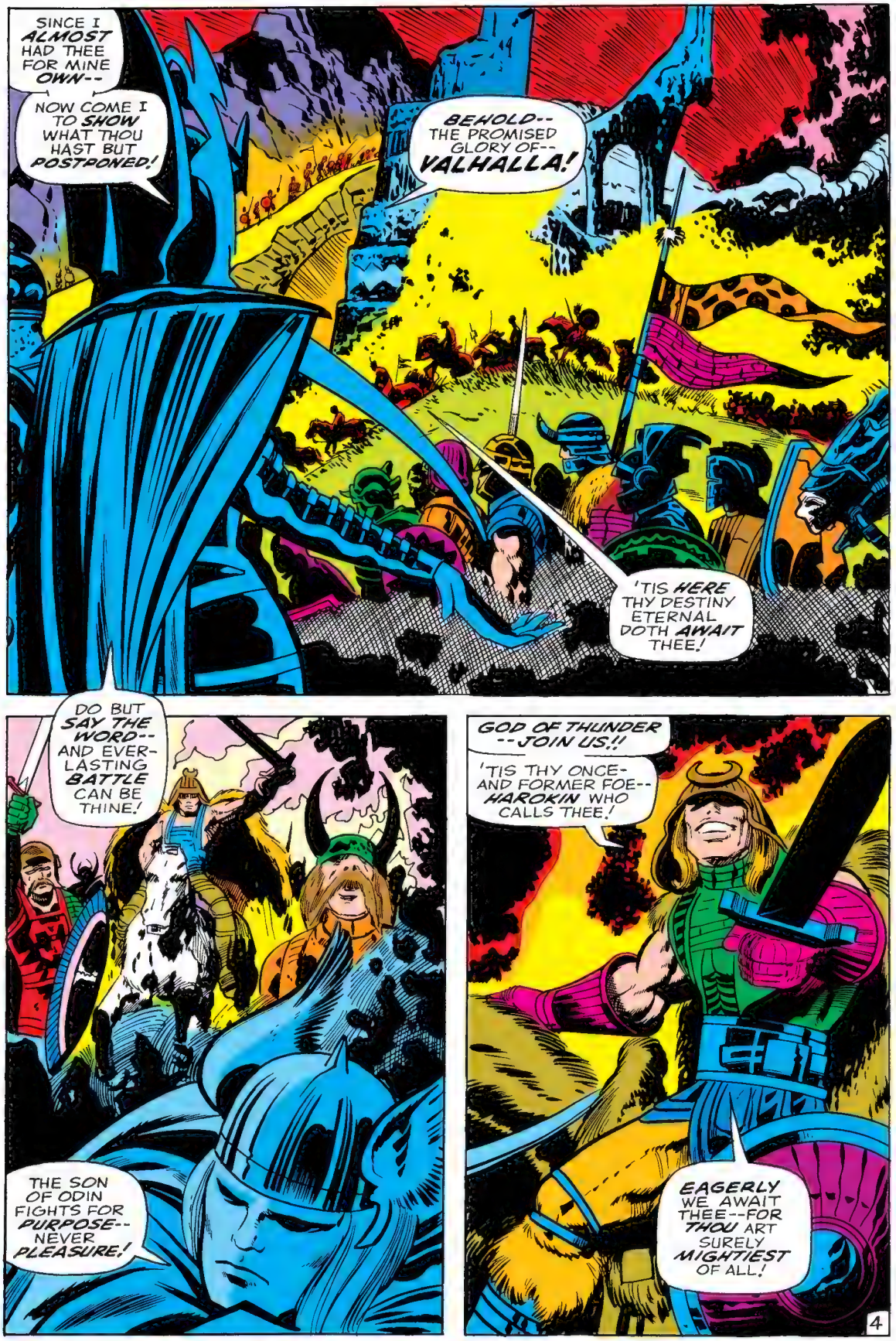

NO SOONER HAS THE FATEFUL PRONOUNCEMENT ISSUED FROM THE LORDLY LIPS OF ASGARD'S LEIGE, WHEN--
AN ODIN-BOLT--BLANKETING THE HEAVENS WITH CELESTIAL FORCE!
IT HATH MELTED THY MYSTIC FROST--AND HURLED US APART--WITHIN THE MEASURE OF A HEARTBEAT!
PRITHEE, MOST NOBLE SIRE--DO NOT END OUR COMBAT!
SO LONG AS LOKI WALKS UNPUNISHED, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE!
BE THOU SILENT, GOD OF THUNDER! THE WILL SUPREME IS NOT FOR THEE TO QUESTION!
AGAIN THOU HAST BEEN MOST UNTIMELY SAVED!
BUT, LOOK THEE TO THY LAURELS, THUNDER GOD! THE FINAL VICTORY SHALL YET BE MINE!
BEGONE, THING OF EVIL! THY WORDS ARE EMPTY AS THY HEART!
I LEAVE THEE, THUNDER GOD--
BUT NEVER SHALT THOU KNOW WHEN NEXT I STRIKE!
IT MATTERS NOT--
FOR THOR STANDS EVER READY!
HE HATH VANISHED! I STAND ALONE ONCE MORE!
THE FAIR SIF SHALL SOON RECOVER--
AND ALL BE WELL ON MIDGARD!
BUT, WHAT OF IMPERIAL ODIN?
HIS VOICE, METHOUGHT--WAS MOST SORELY TROUBLED!
'TIS CERTAIN THERE BE NEW DANGER TO THE REALM! AND, IF IT BE SO--
THEN THOR SHALL FIGHT AGAIN!
NEXT
THAT WHICH ODIN FEARS!
20

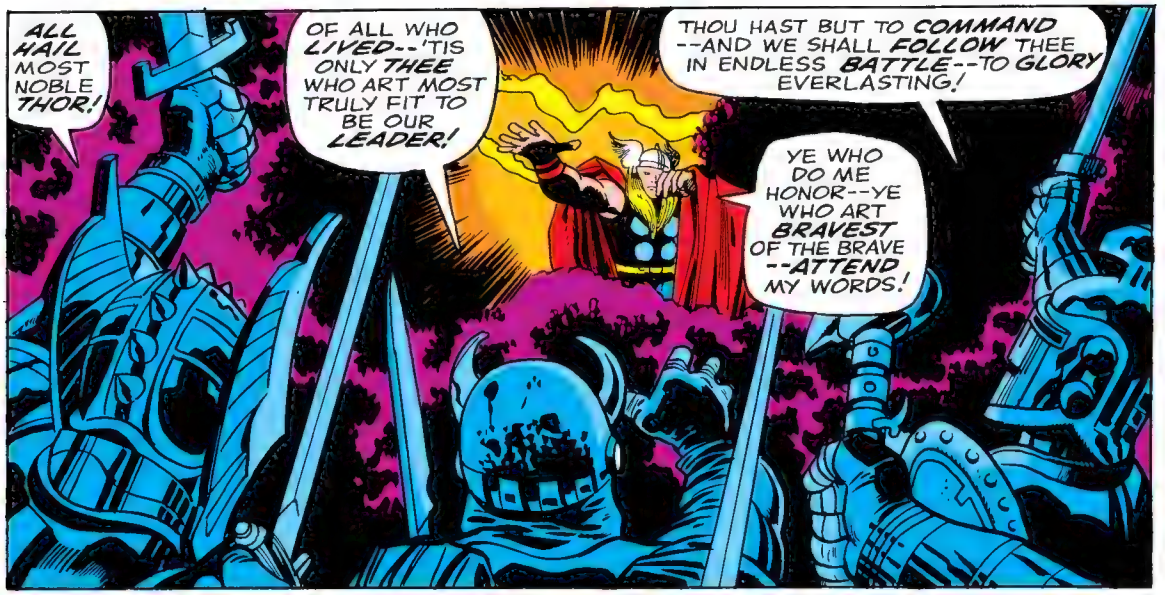
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
154 JULY

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
"...TO WAKE THE MANGOG!"
PRODUCED BY: SMILIN' STAN LEE and JOLLY JACK KIRBY
VINCE COLLETTA INKER
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER
OMNIPOTENT ODIN HATH STAYED MY HAND WHILST I DID BATTLE WITH THE MERCILESS LOKI!
BUT WHY? WHAT DIRE CALAMITY HATH MADE THE ALL-HIGHEST THUS SPARE THE PRINCE OF EVIL?
SORRY, HALLOWED ONE! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN THE ANSWER TO THOR'S QUIVERING QUERY THE HARD WAY--BY READING THAT WHICH FOLLOWS--!
1

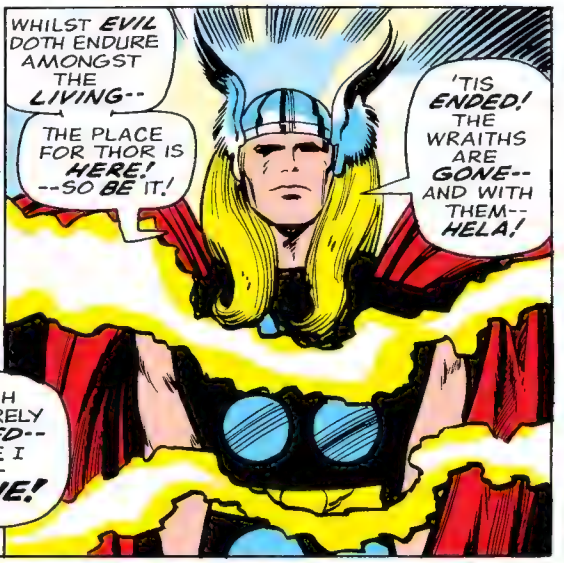
MINE EARS HEAR NO REPLY! MINE EYES BEHOLD NO SIGN!
'TIS NOT YET MEET THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL KNOW HIS FATHER'S WISHES!
THUS, LET ME AWAY TO YONDER HOSPITAL--
--WHERE THE GODDESS SIF NOW LIES, RECOVERING FROM LOKI'S ONSLAUGHT!
O, MOST PERFIDIOUS BROTHER!!
IF THE DARK-HAIRED DAUGHTER OF ASGARD SUCCOMBS TO HER INJURY--HOW THOU SHALT PAY IN MOST FULL MEASURE!
AHH, SHE DOTH SLEEP THE SLEEP OF THE TRULY INNOCENT!
HOW FAIR SHE BE, IN SILENT, SWEET REPOSE!
HER BROW IS COOL--HER FEVER GONE!
SHE, WHO HATH OFFERED UP HER VERY LIFE FOR MINE, SHALL ONE DAY LEARN HOW GRATEFUL THOR CAN BE!
2

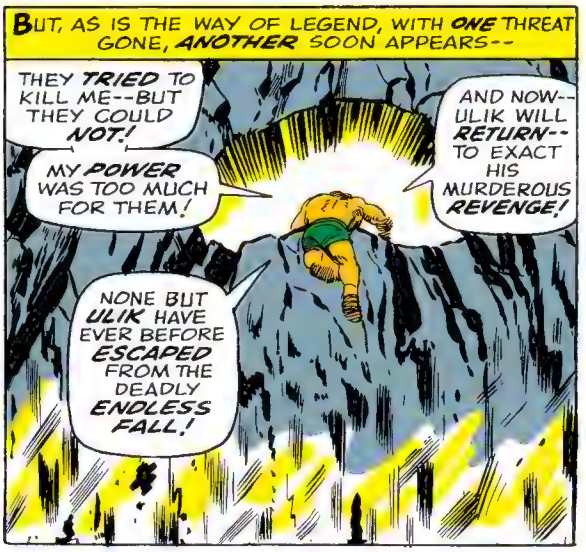
THOUGH THE EYES OF A THUNDER GOD NOW PERUSE MY LADY'S MEDICAL REPORT--
'TWILL REQUIRE THE MORTAL BRAIN OF DR. DONALD BLAKE TO COMPREHEND WHAT IT DOTH SIGNIFY!
'TIS NOT THE EARTHLY PHYSICIAN I SEEK, SON OF ODIN--!
THAT VOICE! IT CAN BELONG TO NONE BUT--
HELA--GODDESS OF DEATH!
STAND THEE FAST, MOST AWESOME ONE!
THOU HAST NO CLAIM UPON THE STUNNING SIF!
SHE DID BUT SUFFER WOUND IN BATTLE!
I VOW SHE SHALL RECOVER!
NOT SHE HAVE I COME FOR, GALLANT ONE!
CAN IT BE THOU HAST SO SOON FORGOT?
NAY! THOU DIDST CLAIM ME ONCE!* BUT THOU SHALT DO SO NO MORE
TRUE, I DID LOSE MY POWER OVER THEE WHEN I TURNED AWAY!
NOW, THOU MAYEST LIVE UNTIL THOU ART MORTALLY WOUNDED ONCE AGAIN--WHEN I SHALL SUMMON THEE ANEW!
THEN WHY ART THOU HERE?
WHY DO I GAZE UPON THINE OMINOUS VISAGE?
*TWO OR THREE ISSUES AGO, REMEMBER? --SCATTER-BRAINED STAN.
3


SINCE I ALMOST HAD THEE FOR MINE OWN--
NOW COME I TO SHOW WHAT THOU HAST BUT POSTPONED!
BEHOLD-- THE PROMISED GLORY OF-- VALHALLA!
'TIS HERE THY DESTINY ETERNAL DOTH AWAIT THEE!
DO BUT SAY THE WORD-- AND EVER-LASTING BATTLE CAN BE THINE!
THE SON OF ODIN FIGHTS FOR PURPOSE-- NEVER PLEASURE!
GOD OF THUNDER --JOIN US!!
'TIS THY ONCE-AND FORMER FOE-- HAROKIN WHO CALLS THEE!
EAGERLY WE AWAIT THEE--FOR THOU ART SURELY MIGHTIEST OF ALL!
4


ALL HAIL MOST NOBLE THOR!
OF ALL WHO LIVED--'TIS ONLY THEE WHO ART MOST TRULY FIT TO BE OUR LEADER!
THOU HAST BUT TO COMMAND --AND WE SHALL FOLLOW THEE IN ENDLESS BATTLE--TO GLORY EVERLASTING!
YE WHO DO ME HONOR--YE WHO ART BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE --ATTEND MY WORDS!

THOUGH THY WARRIOR BLOOD BE MY WARRIOR BLOOD--
I SAY THEE NAY!
THOUGH I BE SORELY TEMPTED-- TO THEE I SAY-- BEGONE!


WHILST EVIL DOTH ENDURE AMONGST THE LIVING--
THE PLACE FOR THOR IS HERE! --SO BE IT!
'TIS ENDED! THE WRAITHS ARE GONE-- AND WITH THEM-- HELA!

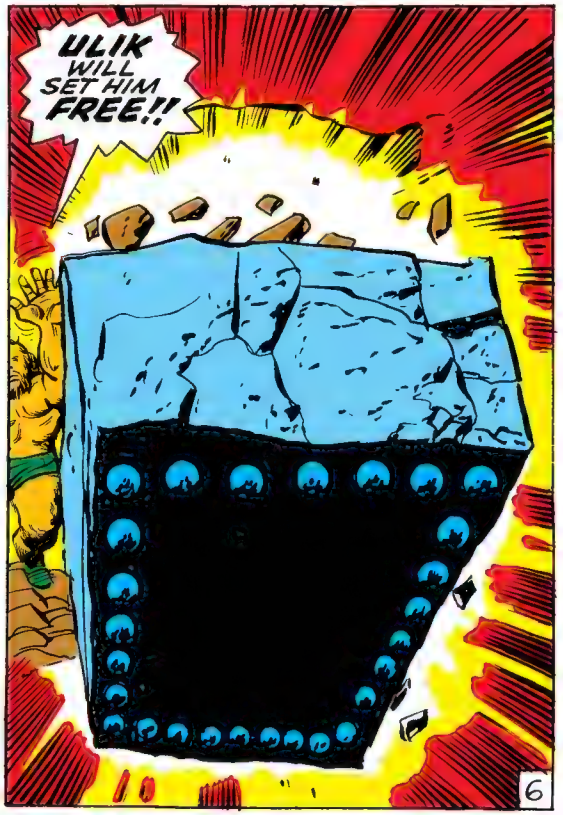

BUT, AS IS THE WAY OF LEGEND, WITH ONE THREAT GONE, ANOTHER SOON APPEARS--
THEY TRIED TO KILL ME--BUT THEY COULD NOT!
MY POWER WAS TOO MUCH FOR THEM!
AND NOW-- ULIK WILL RETURN-- TO EXACT HIS MURDEROUS REVENGE!
NONE BUT ULIK HAVE EVER BEFORE ESCAPED FROM THE DEADLY ENDLESS FALL!

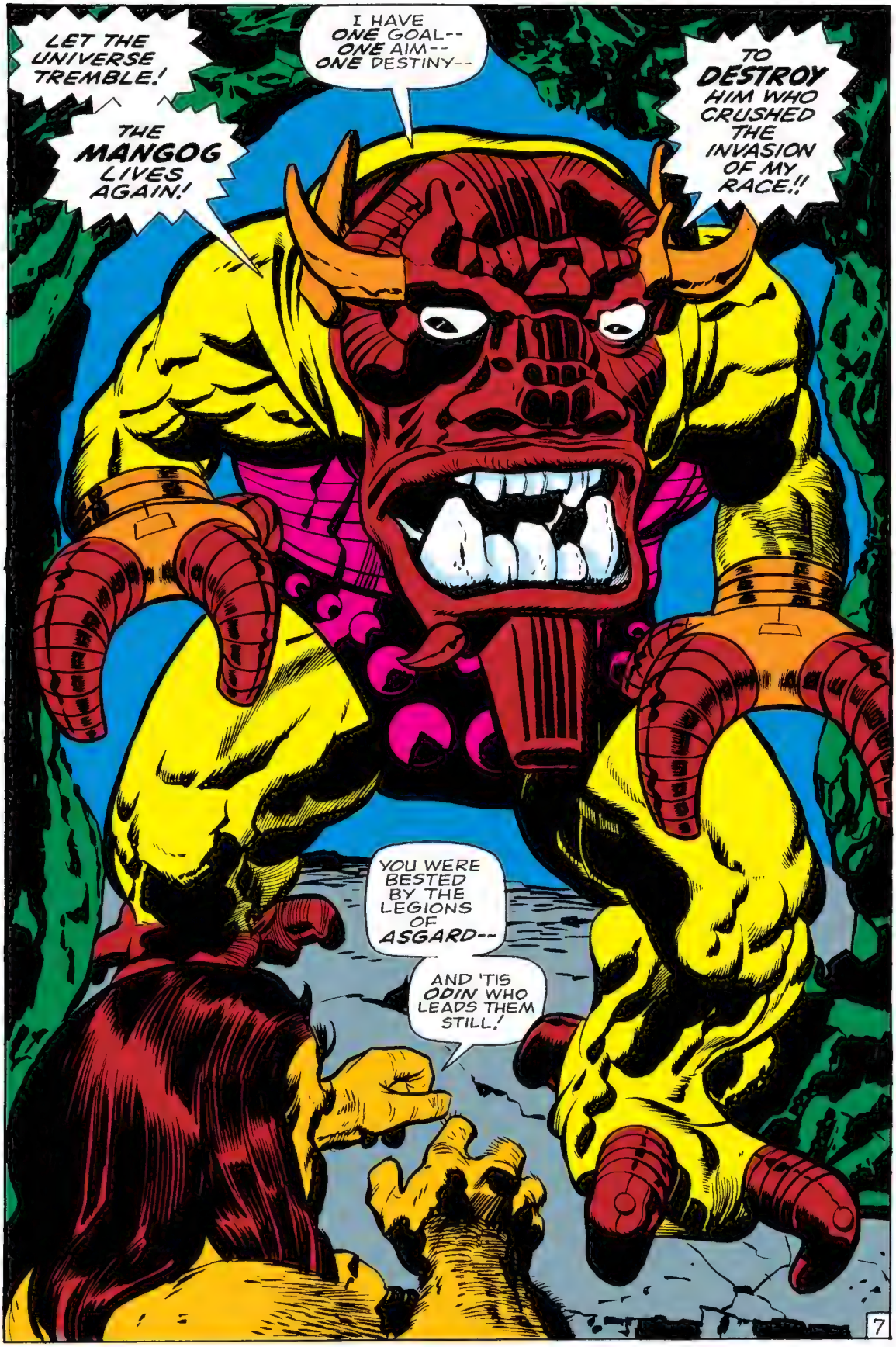
BUT WHAT IS THIS MYSTIC CAVE IN WHICH I FIND MYSELF?
WAIT! I SEEM TO REMEMBER --AN AGELESS LEGEND--
WHAT ARE THESE STRANGELY SHINING STONES?
A LEGEND OF HIDDEN ENCHANTI-STONES--
WHICH ARE THE GLEAMING SEEDS OF ODIN'S SUPREME POWER!

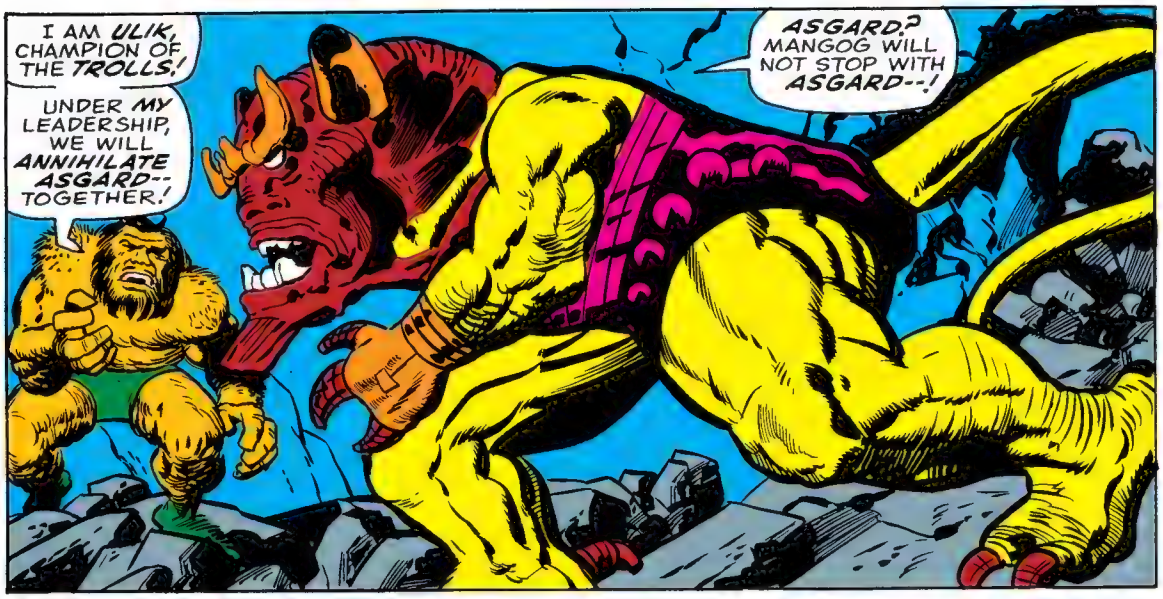
I WAS RIGHT! I HAVE FOUND THE LONG-LOST ODIN-CAVE--
WHEREIN LIES BURIED THE LAST REMAINING MEMBER OF A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN RACE--
A RACE SO POWERFUL THAT IT ALMOST SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING ASGARD ITSELF!
LET NO LIVING BEING DISTURB WHAT LIES WITHIN
By order of Imperial Odin

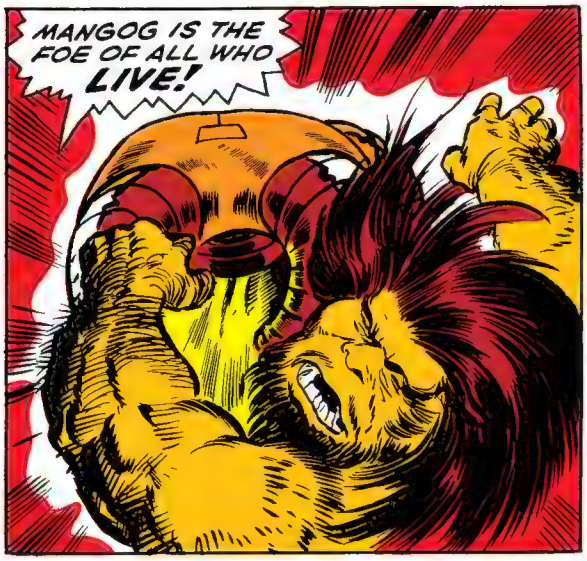
IF ODIN HIMSELF FEARED HIM ENOUGH TO SEAL HIM WITHIN A HIDDEN CAVE-- HIS POWER MUST BE BEYOND DESCRIPTION!

AND ANY WHO IS AN ENEMY OF ASGARD-- MUST BE AN ALLY OF ULIK, MIGHTIEST OF ALL THE TROLLS!
WHOEVER HE IS-- WHATEVER HE MAY BE--


ULIK WILL SET HIM FREE!!

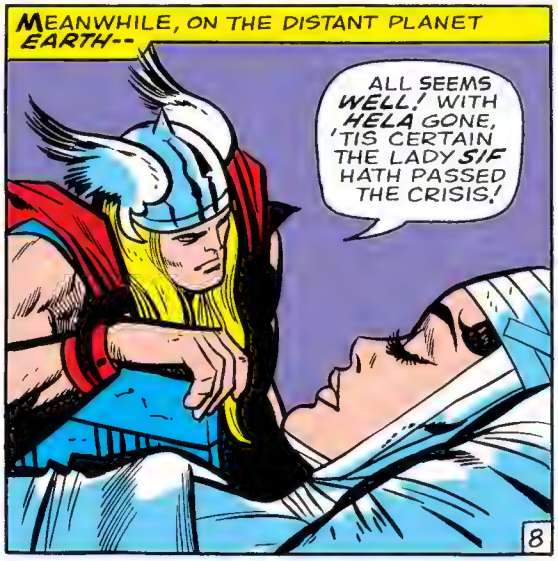

LET THE UNIVERSE TREMBLE!
THE MANGOG LIVES AGAIN!
I HAVE ONE GOAL-- ONE AIM-- ONE DESTINY--
TO DESTROY HIM WHO CRUSHED THE INVASION OF MY RACE!!
YOU WERE BESTED BY THE LEGIONS OF ASGARD--
AND 'TIS ODIN WHO LEADS THEM STILL!

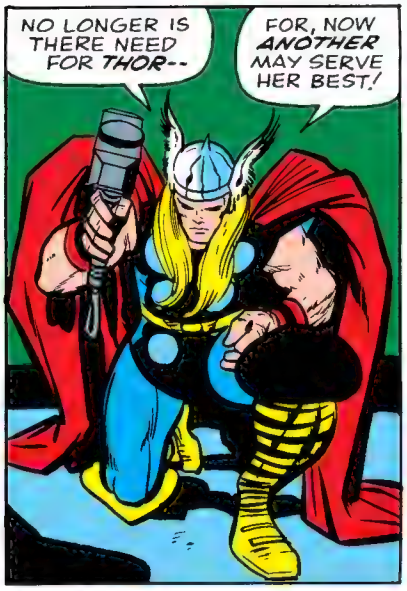

I AM ULIK, CHAMPION OF THE TROLLS!
UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, WE WILL ANNIHILATE ASGARD--TOGETHER!
ASGARD? MANGOG WILL NOT STOP WITH ASGARD--!

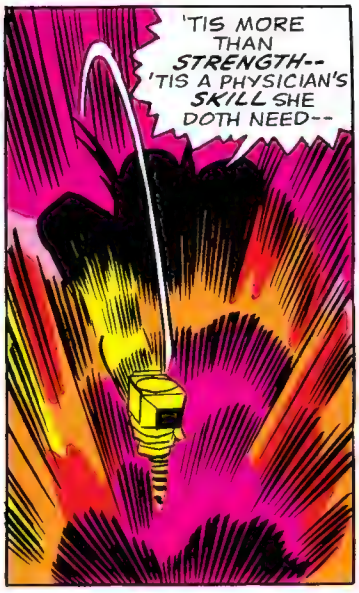

MANGOG IS THE FOE OF ALL WHO LIVE!

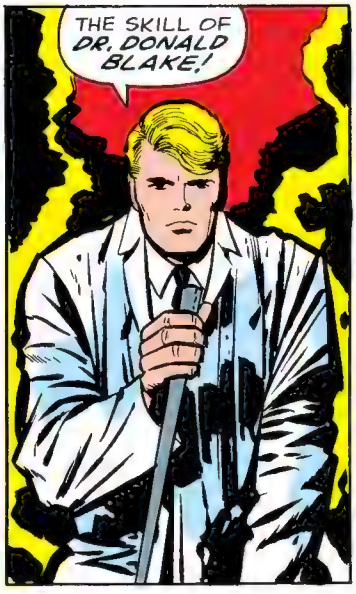
ART THOU MAD?? IT WAS I WHO FREED YOU--!

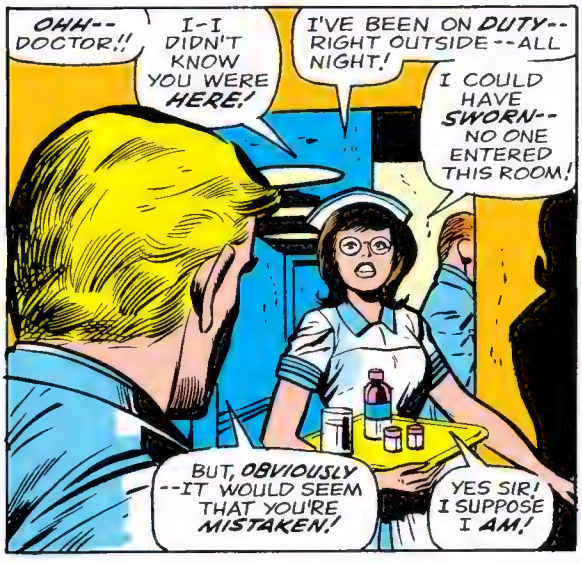
THE MANGOG KNOWS NO GRATITUDE--NO MERCY!
STILL, YOU WILL LIVE A WHILE LONGER--
FOR, EVEN ONE SUCH AS YOU--MAY PROVE USEFUL TO ME!

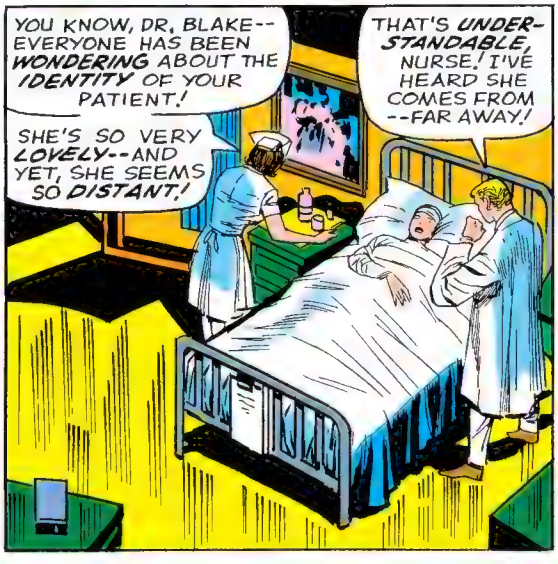

MEANWHILE, ON THE DISTANT PLANET EARTH--
ALL SEEMS WELL! WITH HELA GONE, 'TIS CERTAIN THE LADY SIF HATH PASSED THE CRISIS!

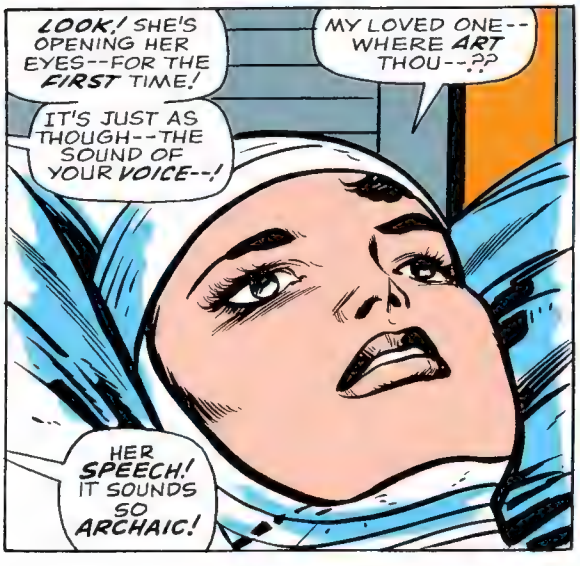

NO LONGER IS THERE NEED FOR THOR--
FOR, NOW ANOTHER MAY SERVE HER BEST!

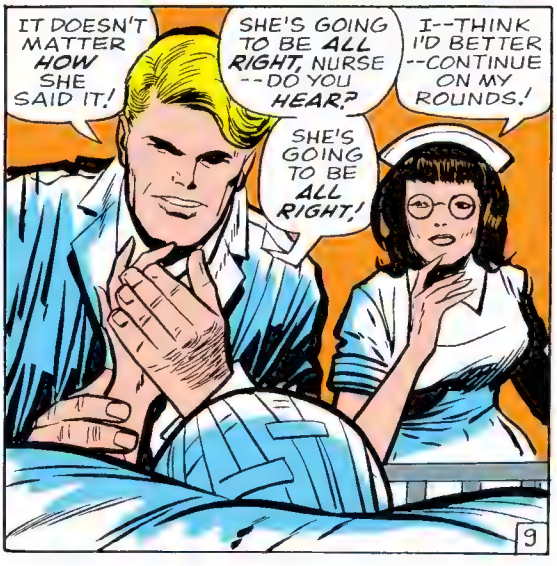

'TIS MORE THAN STRENGTH-- 'TIS A PHYSICIAN'S SKILL SHE DOTH NEED--

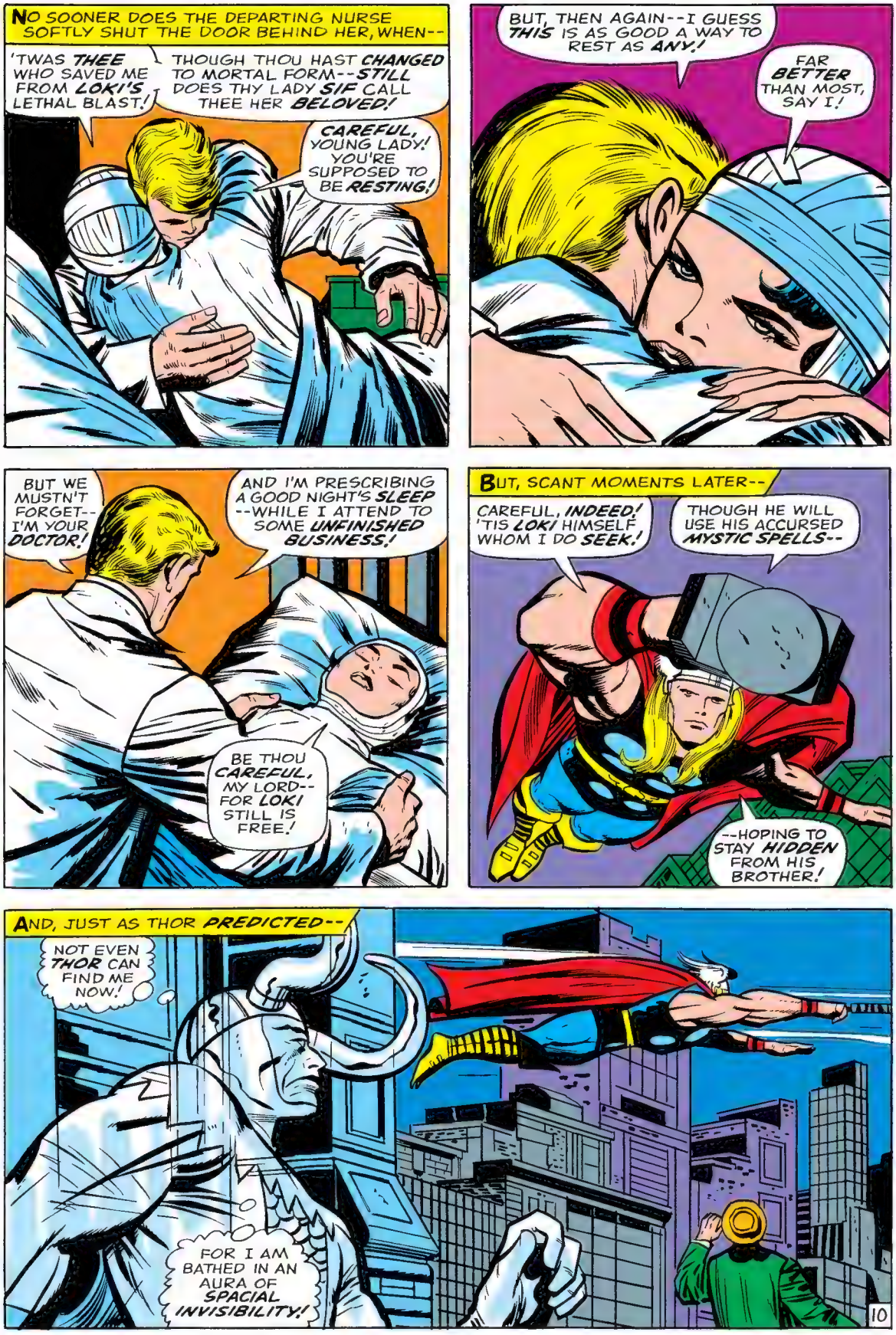

THE SKILL OF DR. DONALD BLAKE!


OHH-- DOCTOR!!
I-I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE!
I'VE BEEN ON DUTY-- RIGHT OUTSIDE--ALL NIGHT!
I COULD HAVE SWORN-- NO ONE ENTERED THIS ROOM!
BUT, OBVIOUSLY --IT WOULD SEEM THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
YES SIR! I SUPPOSE I AM!

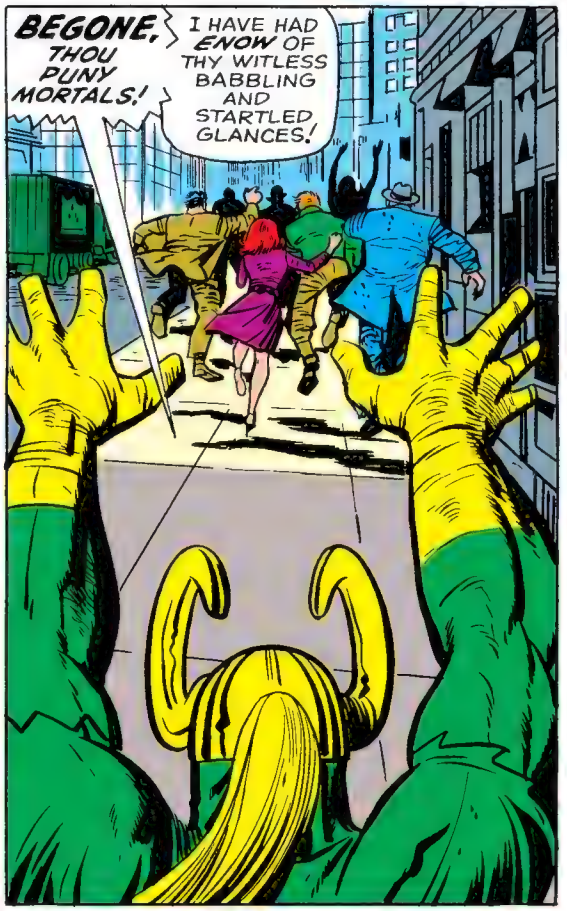

YOU KNOW, DR. BLAKE-- EVERYONE HAS BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF YOUR PATIENT!
SHE'S SO VERY LOVELY--AND YET, SHE SEEMS SO DISTANT!
THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, NURSE! I'VE HEARD SHE COMES FROM --FAR AWAY!

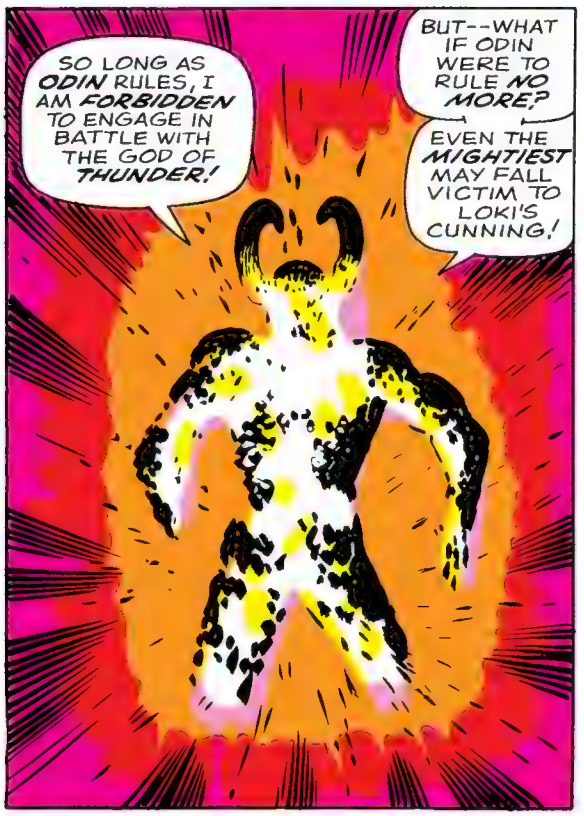

LOOK! SHE'S OPENING HER EYES--FOR THE FIRST TIME!
MY LOVED ONE-- WHERE ART THOU--??
IT'S JUST AS THOUGH--THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE--!
HER SPEECH! IT SOUNDS SO ARCHAIC!


IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW SHE SAID IT!
SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, NURSE --DO YOU HEAR?
I--THINK I'D BETTER --CONTINUE ON MY ROUNDS!
SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

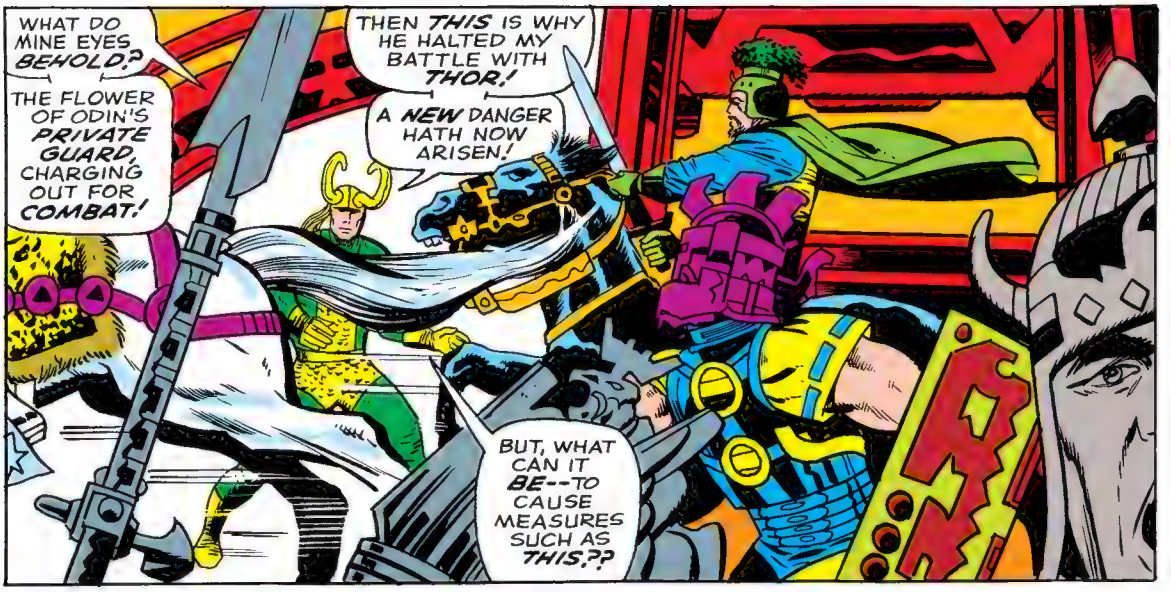

NO SOONER DOES THE DEPARTING NURSE SOFTLY SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND HER, WHEN--
'TWAS THEE WHO SAVED ME FROM LOKI'S LETHAL BLAST!
THOUGH THOU HAST CHANGED TO MORTAL FORM--STILL DOES THY LADY SIF CALL THEE HER BELOVED!
CAREFUL, YOUNG LADY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING!
BUT, THEN AGAIN--I GUESS THIS IS AS GOOD A WAY TO REST AS ANY!
FAR BETTER THAN MOST, SAY I!
BUT WE MUSTN'T FORGET--I'M YOUR DOCTOR!
AND I'M PRESCRIBING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP --WHILE I ATTEND TO SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
BE THOU CAREFUL, MY LORD--FOR LOKI STILL IS FREE!
BUT, SCANT MOMENTS LATER--
CAREFUL, INDEED! 'TIS LOKI HIMSELF WHOM I DO SEEK!
THOUGH HE WILL USE HIS ACCURSED MYSTIC SPELLS--
--HOPING TO STAY HIDDEN FROM HIS BROTHER!
AND, JUST AS THOR PREDICTED--
NOT EVEN THOR CAN FIND ME NOW!
FOR I AM BATHED IN AN AURA OF SPACIAL INVISIBILITY!

BUT I STILL POSSESS THE ENCHANTMENT OF THE NORNS!
I STILL POSSESS POWER--AND A HATRED THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS!
THUS LOKI SHALL HIDE NO MORE!
LET MY SPELL OF INVISIBILITY FALL AWAY!

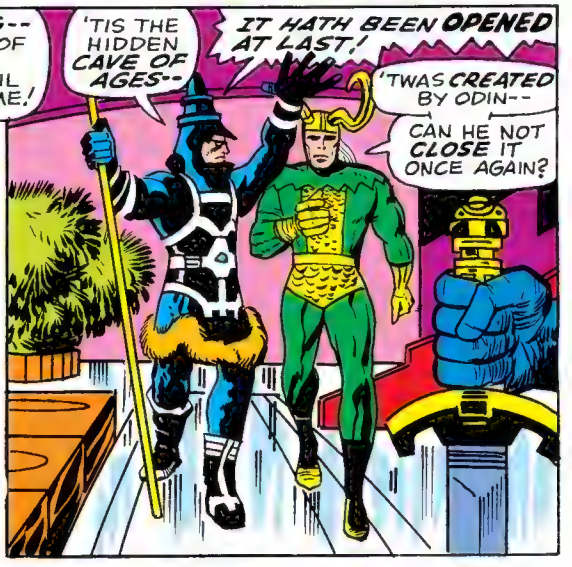

BEGONE, THOU PUNY MORTALS!
I HAVE HAD ENOW OF THY WITLESS BABBLING AND STARTLED GLANCES!

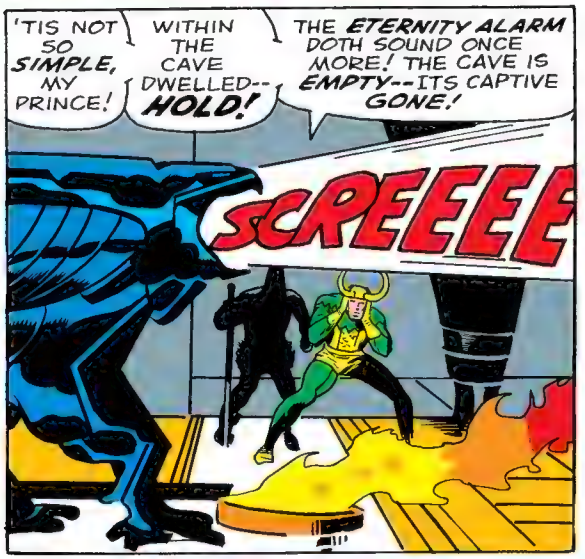

SO LONG AS ODIN RULES, I AM FORBIDDEN TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE WITH THE GOD OF THUNDER!
BUT--WHAT IF ODIN WERE TO RULE NO MORE?
EVEN THE MIGHTIEST MAY FALL VICTIM TO LOKI'S CUNNING!

WHILST THOR REMAINS UPON FAR DISTANT MIDGARD, I SHALL RETURN TO THE GOLDEN REALM!
AND THERE LET LOKI WORK HIS EVIL WILES!

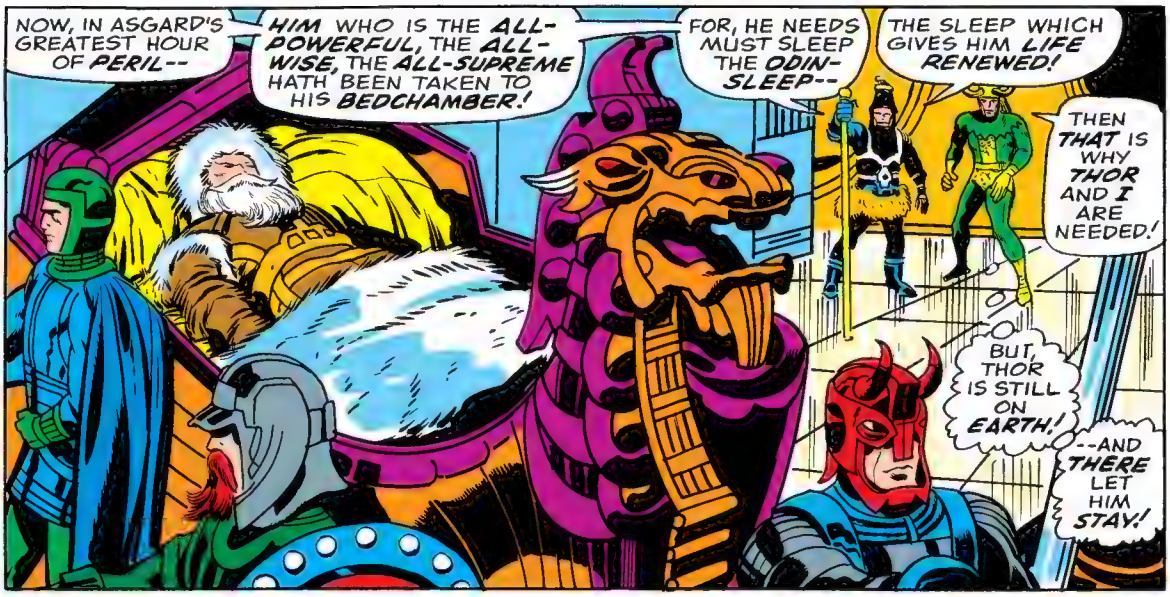

WHAT DO MINE EYES BEHOLD?
THE FLOWER OF ODIN'S PRIVATE GUARD, CHARGING OUT FOR COMBAT!
THEN THIS IS WHY HE HALTED MY BATTLE WITH THOR!
A NEW DANGER HATH NOW ARISEN!
BUT, WHAT CAN IT BE--TO CAUSE MEASURES SUCH AS THIS??

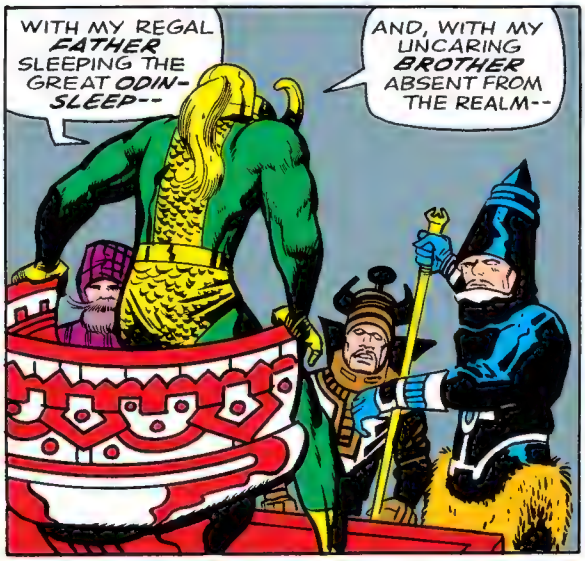
SON OF ODIN! 'TIS GOOD THOU HAST RETURNED!
THE REALM HATH GREAT NEED OF THY STRENGTH-- AND THY MYSTIC PROWESS!
TOAG-- ELDER OF THE COUNCIL SUPREME!
WHAT MENACE HATH SO SPEEDILY ARISEN?


'TIS THE HIDDEN CAVE OF AGES--
IT HATH BEEN OPENED AT LAST!
'TWAS CREATED BY ODIN--
CAN HE NOT CLOSE IT ONCE AGAIN?


'TIS NOT SO SIMPLE, MY PRINCE!
WITHIN THE CAVE DWELLED-- HOLD!
THE ETERNITY ALARM DOTH SOUND ONCE MORE! THE CAVE IS EMPTY--ITS CAPTIVE GONE!
SCREEEE

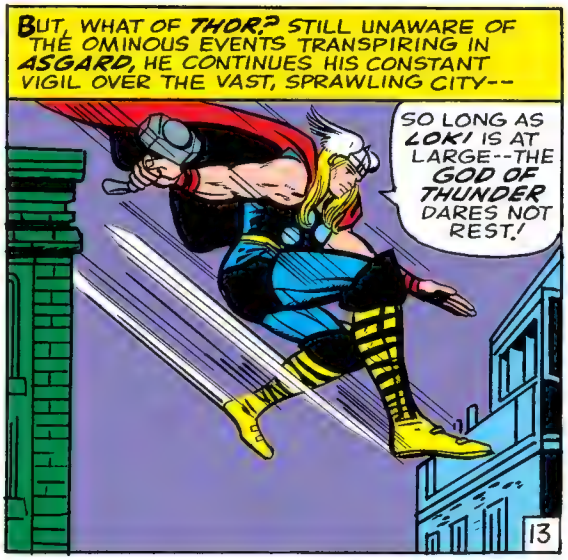
SEAL FAST THE DOOR!
THE DEAFENING SHRIEK DOTH OFFEND THE EARS OF LOKI!
WHATE'ER MAY BE AMISS, ODIN WILL SET TO RIGHTS!
NOT SO, MY LORD!
FOLLOW ME! TOAG WILL SHOW THEE--!


NOW, IN ASGARD'S GREATEST HOUR OF PERIL--
HIM WHO IS THE ALL-POWERFUL, THE ALL-WISE, THE ALL-SUPREME HATH BEEN TAKEN TO HIS BEDCHAMBER!
FOR, HE NEEDS MUST SLEEP THE ODIN-SLEEP--
THE SLEEP WHICH GIVES HIM LIFE RENEWED!
THEN THAT IS WHY THOR AND I ARE NEEDED!
BUT, THOR IS STILL ON EARTH!
--AND THERE LET HIM STAY!

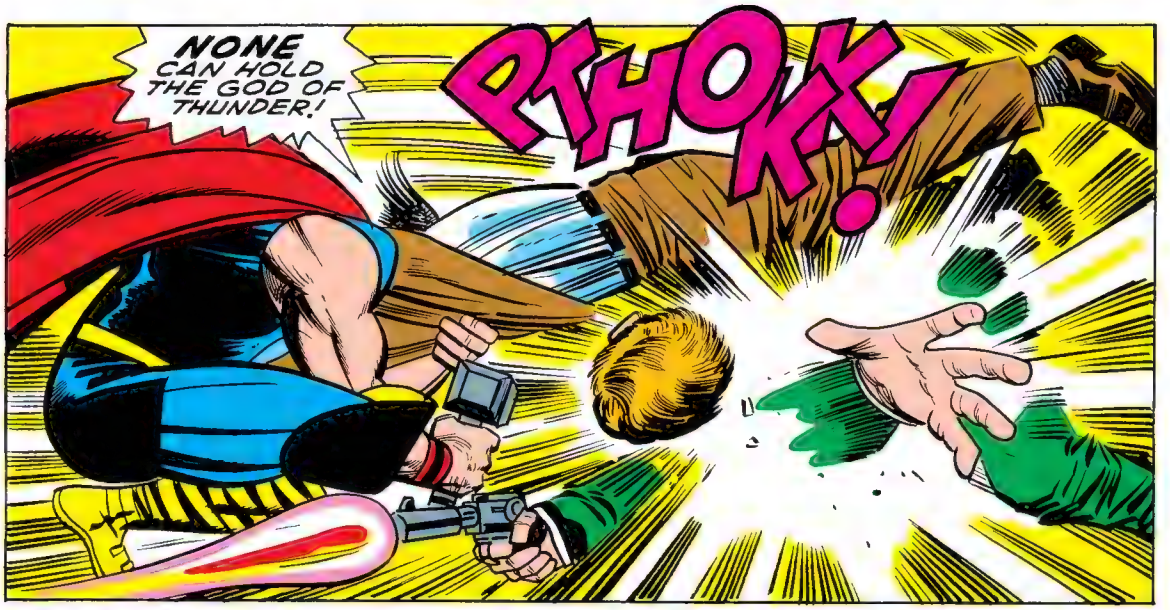

WITH MY REGAL FATHER SLEEPING THE GREAT ODIN-SLEEP--
AND, WITH MY UNCARING BROTHER ABSENT FROM THE REALM--

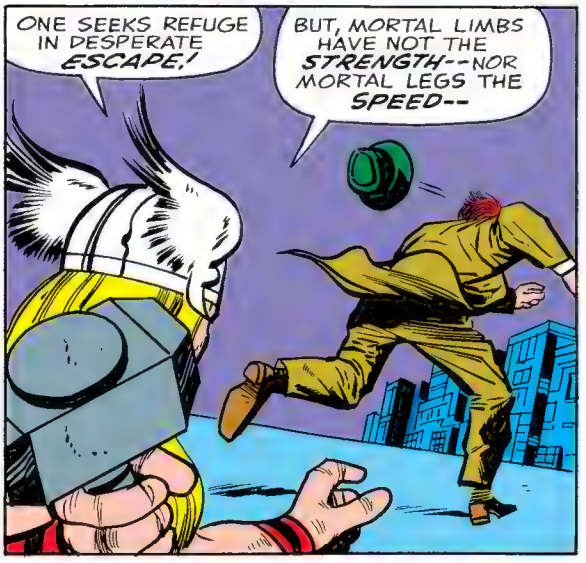
KNOW YOU ALL THAT LOKI NOW DOTH RULE!!
ASGARD, AT LAST--IS MINE!

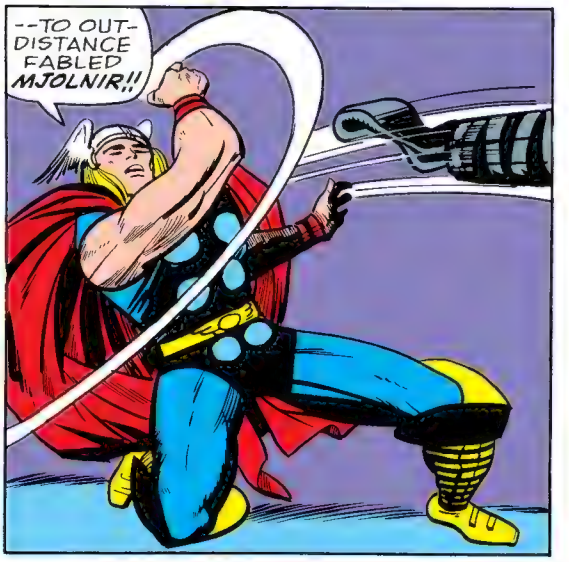
THIS TIME I SHALL GAIN CONTROL FORE'ER--
OR, IF I FAIL--THE REALM WILL TOPPLE WITH ME!

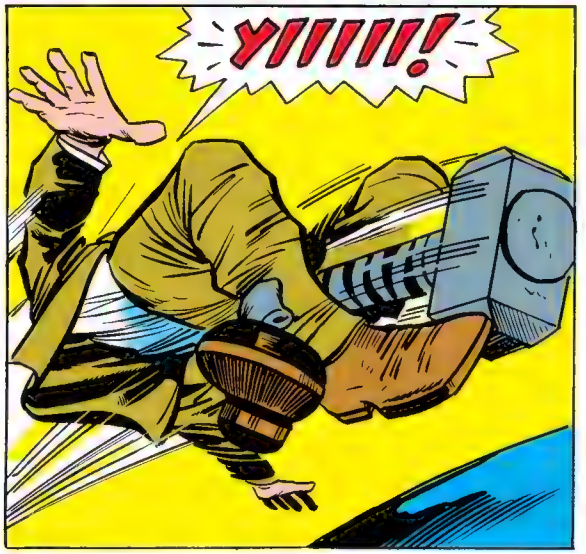

BUT, WHAT OF THOR? STILL UNAWARE OF THE OMINOUS EVENTS TRANSPIRING IN ASGARD, HE CONTINUES HIS CONSTANT VIGIL OVER THE VAST, SPRAWLING CITY--
SO LONG AS LOKI IS AT LARGE--THE GOD OF THUNDER DARES NOT REST!

A STIFLED CRY FROM YONDER ALLEY--!
NE'ER WILL IT CEASE TO AMAZE ME HOW MORTALS EVER PREY UPON EACH OTHER!
HOLD 'IM STILL WHILE I GRAB HIS WALLET!
HEY, LOOK--! UP THERE --IN THE SKY--!! IT'S-- IT'S--
MEN CALL ME-- THOR!
NO MATTER WHAT HIS NAME IS-- GET 'IM, JOE!
SPYOING!
IT'S NO GOOD! HE BLOCKED ME WITH THAT HAMMER!
QUICK! TRY IT AGAIN!
I'LL HOLD 'IM LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GET ANOTHER SHOT OFF!

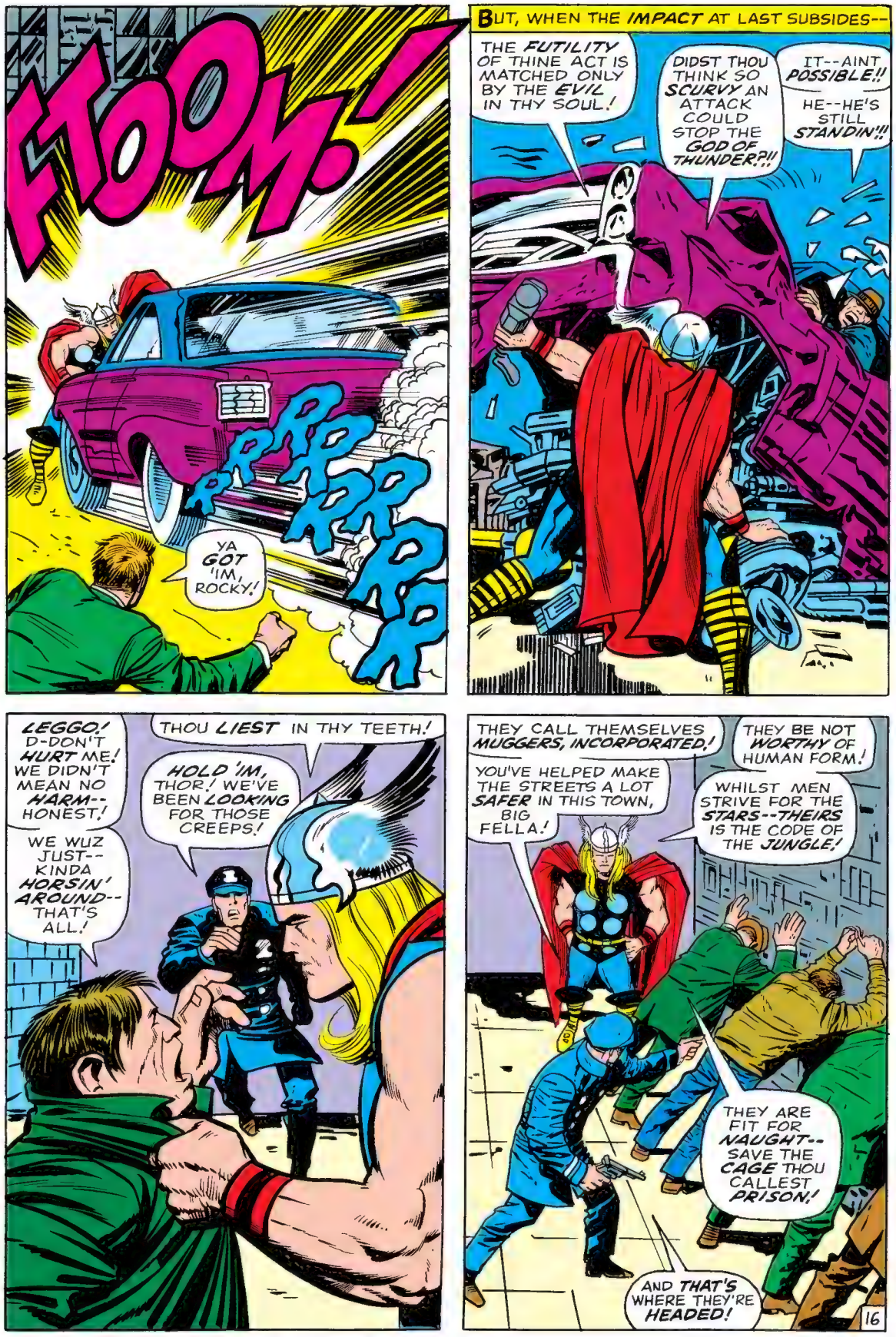

NONE CAN HOLD THE GOD OF THUNDER!
PTHOKK!

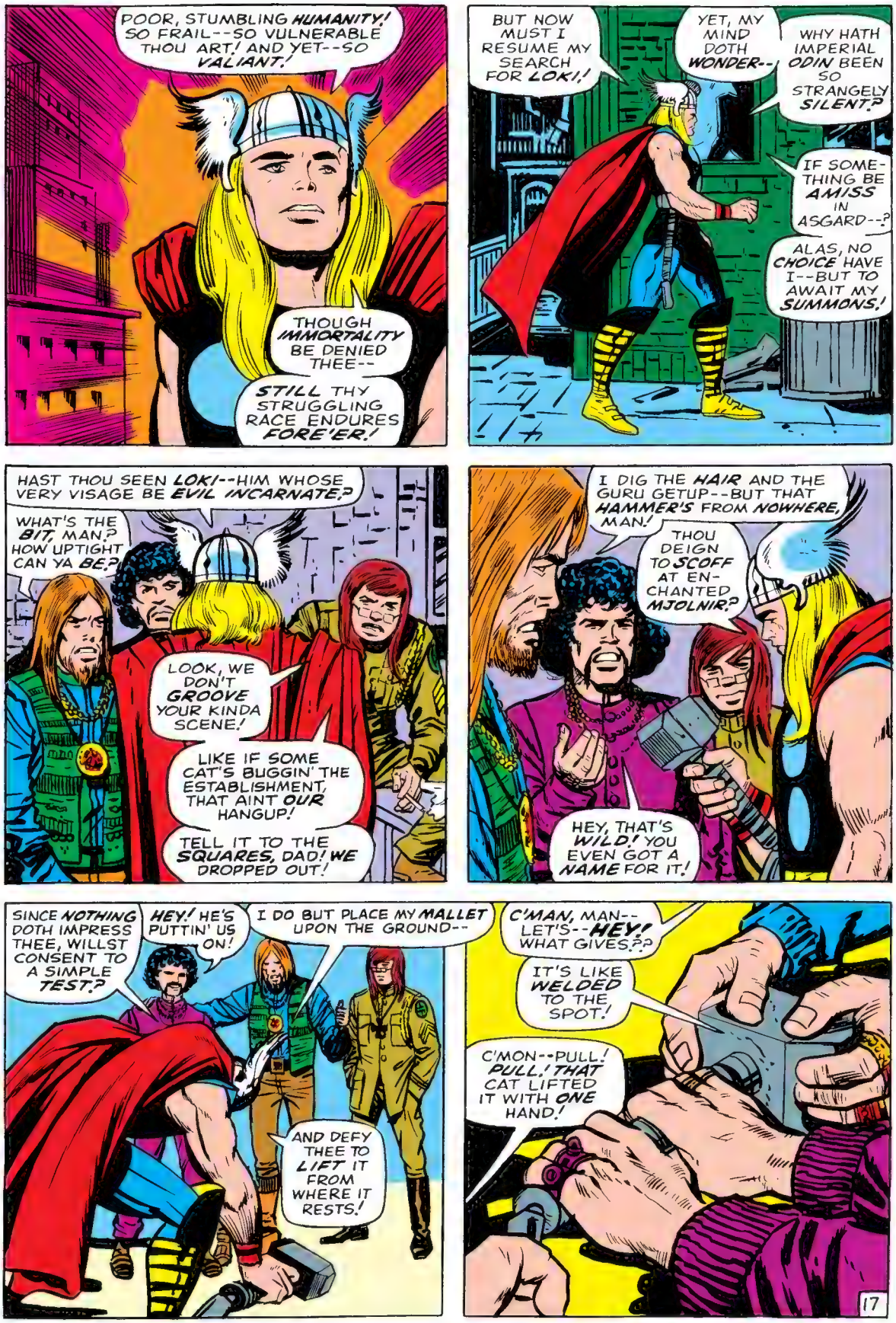

ONE SEEKS REFUGE IN DESPERATE ESCAPE!
BUT, MORTAL LIMBS HAVE NOT THE STRENGTH--NOR MORTAL LEGS THE SPEED--


--TO OUT-DISTANCE FABLED MJOLNIR!!


YIIIII!

JUST STAY WHERE YA ARE, MISTER!!
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT--!
NEXT TIME YA'LL KNOW BETTER THAN TO INTERRUPT ANOTHER GUY'S CAPER!
EXCEPT IN YOUR CASE--
THERE AINT GONNA BE A NEXT TIME!


FTOOM!
RRRRRRR
YA GOT 'IM, ROCKY!
BUT, WHEN THE IMPACT AT LAST SUBSIDES--
THE FUTILITY OF THINE ACT IS MATCHED ONLY BY THE EVIL IN THY SOUL!
DIDST THOU THINK SO SCURVY AN ATTACK COULD STOP THE GOD OF THUNDER?!!
IT--AINT POSSIBLE!!
HE--HE'S STILL STANDIN'!!
LEGGO! D-DON'T HURT ME! WE DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM-- HONEST!
WE WUZ JUST-- KINDA HORSIN' AROUND-- THAT'S ALL!
THOU LIEST IN THY TEETH!
HOLD 'IM, THOR! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THOSE CREEPS!
THEY CALL THEMSELVES MUGGERS, INCORPORATED!
YOU'VE HELPED MAKE THE STREETS A LOT SAFER IN THIS TOWN, BIG FELLA!
THEY BE NOT WORTHY OF HUMAN FORM!
WHILST MEN STRIVE FOR THE STARS--THEIRS IS THE CODE OF THE JUNGLE!
THEY ARE FIT FOR NAUGHT-- SAVE THE CAGE THOU CALLEST PRISON!
AND THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE HEADED!
16


POOR, STUMBLING HUMANITY! SO FRAIL--SO VULNERABLE THOU ART! AND YET--SO VALIANT!
THOUGH IMMORTALITY BE DENIED THEE--
STILL THY STRUGGLING RACE ENDURES FORE'ER!
BUT NOW MUST I RESUME MY SEARCH FOR LOKI!
YET, MY MIND DOTH WONDER--
WHY HATH IMPERIAL ODIN BEEN SO STRANGELY SILENT?
IF SOMETHING BE AMISS IN ASGARD--?
ALAS, NO CHOICE HAVE I--BUT TO AWAIT MY SUMMONS!
HAST THOU SEEN LOKI--HIM WHOSE VERY VISAGE BE EVIL INCARNATE?
WHAT'S THE BIT, MAN? HOW UPTIGHT CAN YA BE?
LOOK, WE DON'T GROOVE YOUR KINDA SCENE!
LIKE IF SOME CAT'S BUGGIN' THE ESTABLISHMENT, THAT AINT OUR HANGUP!
TELL IT TO THE SQUARES, DAD! WE DROPPED OUT!
I DIG THE HAIR AND THE GURU GETUP--BUT THAT HAMMER'S FROM NOWHERE, MAN!
THOU DEIGN TO SCOFF AT ENCHANTED MJOLNIR?
HEY, THAT'S WILD! YOU EVEN GOT A NAME FOR IT!
SINCE NOTHING DOTH IMPRESS THEE, WILLST CONSENT TO A SIMPLE TEST?
HEY! HE'S PUTTIN' US ON!
I DO BUT PLACE MY MALLET UPON THE GROUND--
AND DEFY THEE TO LIFT IT FROM WHERE IT RESTS!
C'MAN, MAN--LET'S--HEY! WHAT GIVES??
IT'S LIKE WELDED TO THE SPOT!
C'MON--PULL! PULL! THAT CAT LIFTED IT WITH ONE HAND!

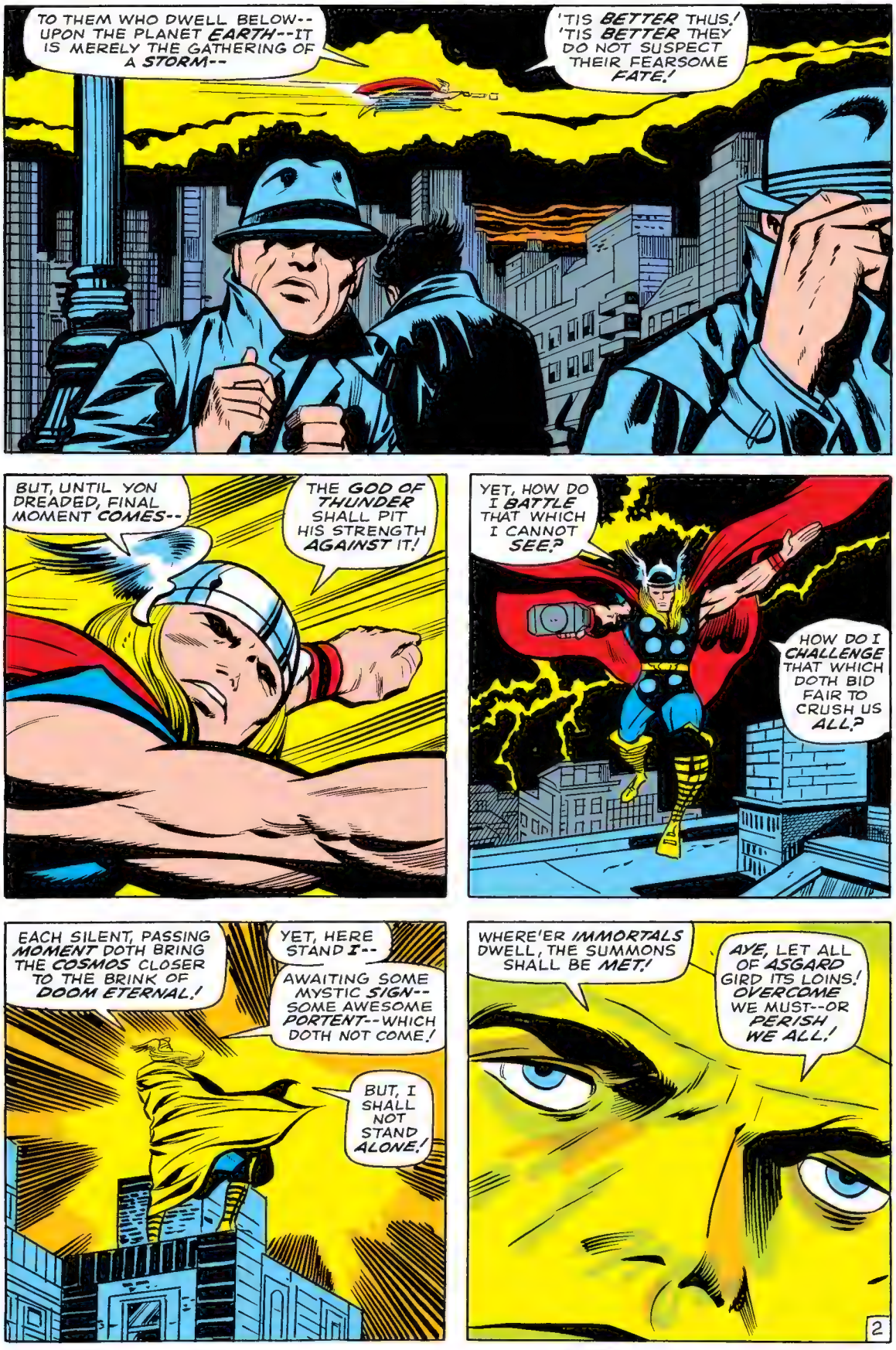
STAND AWAY, ALL!
THOUGH THOU BE TRULY PURE OF HEART--
IN THINE INNOCENCE, THOU ART FAIR MISGUIDED!
THE TRUE GURU THOU SEEKEST DOTH LIE WITHIN THYSELVES!
HEED YOU NOW THESE WORDS--
'TIS NOT BY DROPPING OUT--BUT BY PLUNGING IN-- INTO THE MAELSTROM OF LIFE ITSELF-- THAT THOU SHALT FIND THY WISDOM!
THERE BE CAUSES TO ESPOUSE!! THERE BE BATTLES TO BE WON!
THERE BE GLORY AND GRANDEUR ALL ABOUT THEE--IF THOU WILT BUT SEE!
AYE, THERE BE TIME ENOW FOR THEE TO DISAVOW THY HERITAGE--
YEA, THOU MAYEST DROP OUT FORE'ER-- ONCE HELA HERSELF HATH COME FOR THEE!
BUT, SO LONG AS LIFE ENDURES-- THOU MUST LIVE IT TO THE FULL!
ELSE, THOU BE UNWORTHY OF THE TITLE-- MAN!
18

VERILY, THEY HAVE EYES, BUT SEETH NOT!
WHEN LIFE DOTH SEEM TOO MUCH TO BEAR--'TIS NOT THE TIME TO RENOUNCE THE STRUGGLE!
THE OSTRICH HIDES--THE JACKAL FLEES--BUT MAN--AND GOD--DO PERSEVERE!
AND, EVEN AS THE THUNDER GOD STANDS ALONE IN THE NIGHT, WITH HIS STERN AND SOLEMN THOUGHTS--
QUEEN OF THE NORNS, I MAY TARRY HERE NO LONGER!
BUT, WHAT IF KARNILLA TOO HAVE NEED OF BALDER?
MY SOUL DOTH SENSE GRAVE DANGER FESTERING WITHIN THE HALLOWED WALLS OF ASGARD!
THOUGH I BE QUEEN OF ENCHANTMENT, MY HEART IS THE HEART OF A WOMAN!
AND IT DOTH BEAT FOR THEE ALONE, BRAVE BALDER!
SPEAK NO MORE, MYSTIC MAIDEN!
THINE ARDOR IS MOST UNSEEMLY, SINCE DEADLY FOES WE BE!
WHAT?!! YOU DARE TO SPURN THE LOVE OF KARNILLA??
KNOW YOU, BALDER--NONE MAY REJECT THE NORN QUEEN'S SUIT--AND LIVE TO BOAST OF IT!
BEHOLD--!
SEE THESE WARRIORS--MOTIONLESS--LIFELESS--FROZEN FOR ALL ETERNITY!
THEY TOO HAVE DARED INCUR MY WRATH!
THE MISSING LEGION OF THE LOST! AT LAST THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED!
BUT, NOT EVEN THEY WERE RECKLESS ENOUGH TO SPURN MY QUEENLY LOVE!
19

I CAUTION THEE, ASGARDIAN--
THOU MUST MAKE THY CHOICE! WILT THOU ACCEPT MY HAND--OR A FATE SUCH AS THEIRS!
THOU MAKEST A MOCKERY OF THY SUIT!
LOVE IS LESS THAN LOVE, IF IT BE NOT FREELY GIVEN!
THOU ART BRAVE, NOBLE BALDER!
BUT THE POWER IS MINE!
AND, SPEAKING OF POWER, HOW'S THIS FOR A CATASTROPHIC COMBO--?
THE MANGOG LIFTS ME FROM THE PIT AS THOUGH I AM WEIGHT-LESS!
SURELY HE IS THE MASTER OF A HUNDRED SUCH AS ULIK!
BETTER I HAD PERISHED, THAN TO SET THE MANGOG FREE!
IN ALL THE SPINNING COSMOS--THERE CAN BE NO SAFETY NOW!
HEAR ME, LORD OF ASGARD! WHERE'ERE THOU ART, THE MANGOG SOON SHALL FIND THEE!
AND THEN SHALL COME THY RAGNAROK --THE DEATH OF ALL THY UNIVERSE!
NEVER HATH MY SOUL FELT SUCH DIRE APPRE-HENSION!
WHERE IS THY SUMMONS, REGAL SIRE?
WHERE IS THE VOICE OF ODIN?
TO BE-ETH CONTINUED!
20

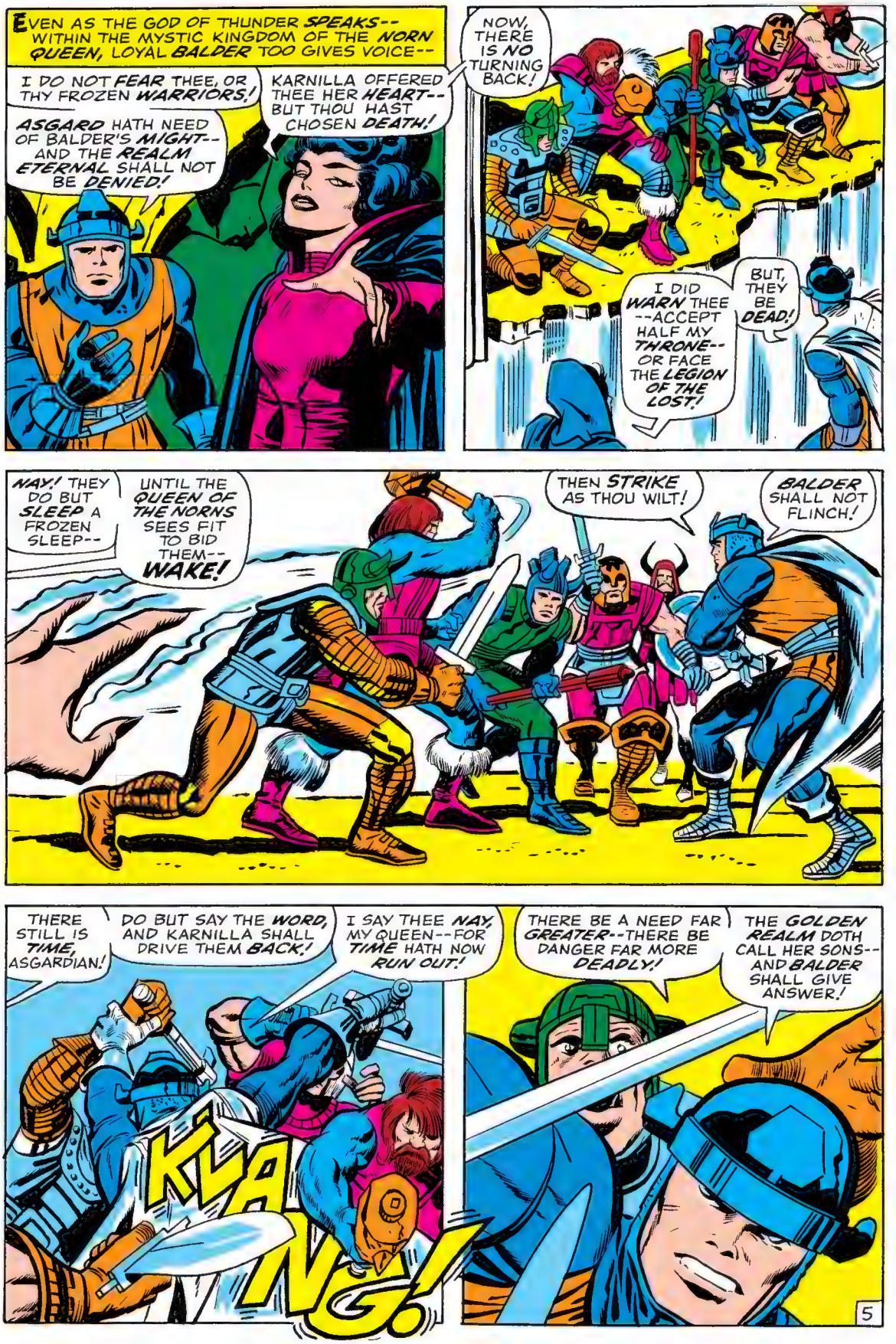
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND
155 AUG
NOW ENDS...
The UNIVERSE!

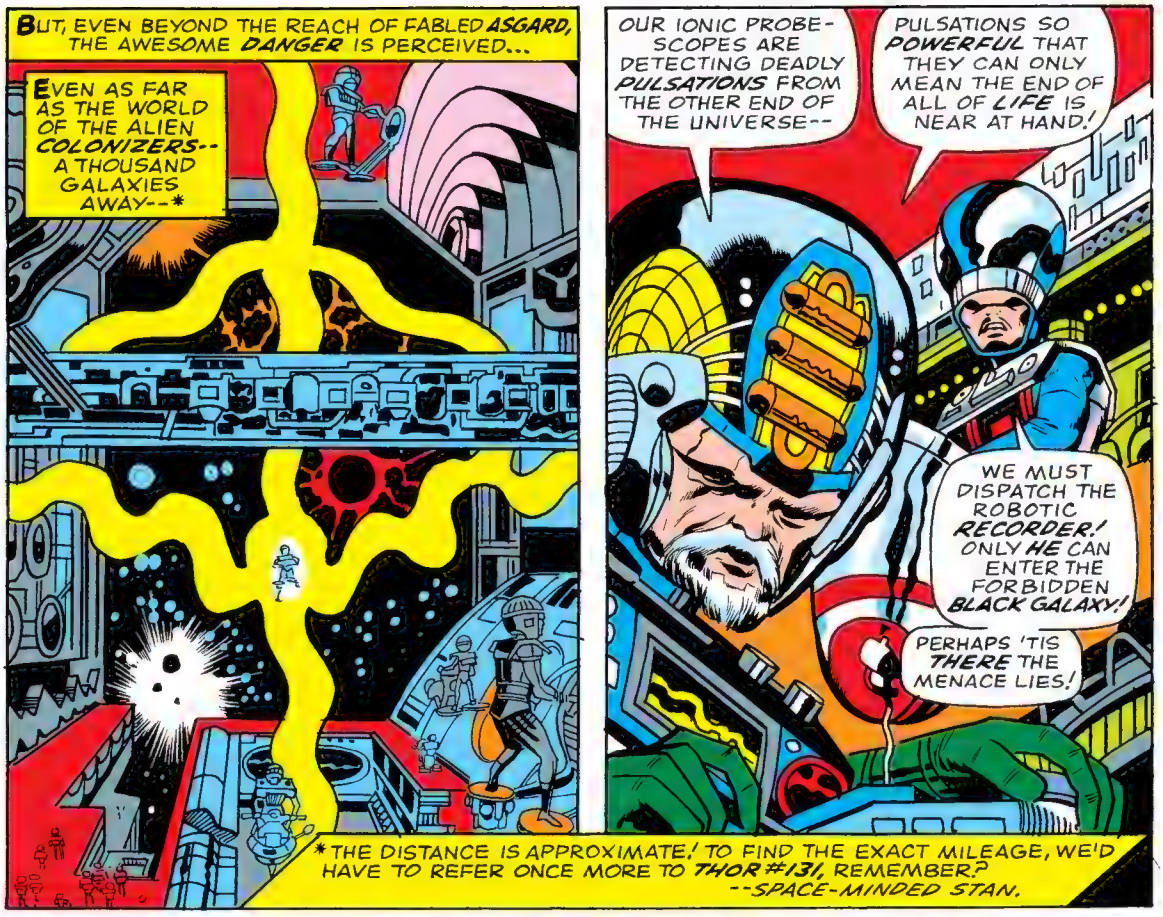
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
"NOW ENDS THE UNIVERSE!"
VERILY, THERE BE DARK CLOUDS A'GATHERING...
CLOUDS OF DEEPEST EVIL, WHICH DO CHILL MY VERY SOUL-- FOR THEY HERALD THE COMING OF-- RAGNAROK!
IN LETTERS OF FIRE IT HATH BEEN WRIT --THE DAY OF RAGNAROK SHALL WITNESS--
THE END OF THE WORLD!
IMMORTALIZED BY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE
and
JOLLY JACK KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK

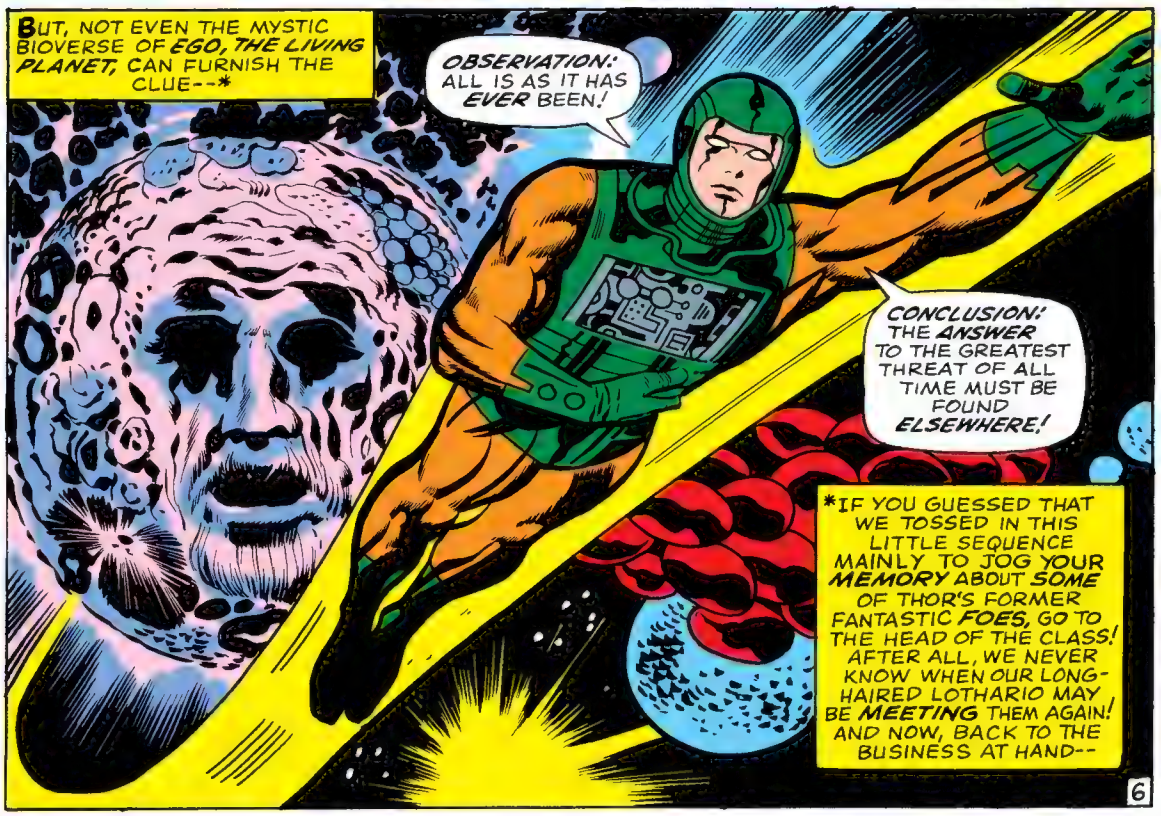

TO THEM WHO DWELL BELOW--UPON THE PLANET EARTH--IT IS MERELY THE GATHERING OF A STORM--
'TIS BETTER THUS! 'TIS BETTER THEY DO NOT SUSPECT THEIR FEARSOME FATE!
BUT, UNTIL YON DREADED, FINAL MOMENT COMES--
THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL PIT HIS STRENGTH AGAINST IT!
YET, HOW DO I BATTLE THAT WHICH I CANNOT SEE?
HOW DO I CHALLENGE THAT WHICH DOTH BID FAIR TO CRUSH US ALL?
EACH SILENT, PASSING MOMENT DOTH BRING THE COSMOS CLOSER TO THE BRINK OF DOOM ETERNAL!
YET, HERE STAND I--
AWAITING SOME MYSTIC SIGN--SOME AWESOME PORTENT--WHICH DOTH NOT COME!
BUT, I SHALL NOT STAND ALONE!
WHERE'ER IMMORTALS DWELL, THE SUMMONS SHALL BE MET!
AYE, LET ALL OF ASGARD GIRD ITS LOINS! OVERCOME WE MUST--OR PERISH WE ALL!
2

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, IN A PRIVATE HOSPITAL ROOM, IN THE CENTER OF THE TEEMING CITY--
YOU--SAT UP SO SUDDENLY!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
'TIS A DANGER-- WHICH WORDS CANNOT EXPLAIN!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND! YOU WERE RECOVER-ING SO NICELY! IF YOU'RE FEELING ILL AGAIN--?
NAY! 'TIS NOT AN ILLNESS OF THE FLESH!
--WOULD TO ODIN THAT IT WERE!
MY LADY SIF! I HAVE COME FOR THEE!
I AM READY, MY LORD!
THOU HAST SEEN THE OMENS!
THOU HAST HEARD THE SILENT CALL!
THUS, WE MAY TARRY HERE NO LONGER!
THE TIME IS COME!
WHATE'ER AWAITS US--SIF SHALL FACE IT WITH THEE!
LIKE ASGARDIANS HAVE WE LIVED-- SO SHALL WE DIE!
3

Y-YOUR HAMMER! THOSE STRANGE RAYS!
BE THOU SILENT, WOMAN!
LET THE URU ENCHANTMENT OF MY MALLET SPEED THE HEALING OF MY LADY!
NURSE--BEGONE!
THAT WHICH NOW TRANSPIRES IS NOT FOR MORTAL EYES!
SHE HATH DEPARTED!
AND NOW--SO TOO MUST WE!
LET MY HAMMER SPIN--
LET THE VORTEX FORM--LET DISTANCE MELT AWAY!
NOW STAND WE ON THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, MY LORD!
THE ETERNAL ROAD TO ASGARD!
AYE--AND LET US PRAY THAT ALL DO THUS ASSEMBLE!
4


EVEN AS THE GOD OF THUNDER SPEAKS-- WITHIN THE MYSTIC KINGDOM OF THE NORN QUEEN, LOYAL BALDER TOO GIVES VOICE--
I DO NOT FEAR THEE, OR THY FROZEN WARRIORS!
KARNILLA OFFERED THEE HER HEART-- BUT THOU HAST CHOSEN DEATH!
ASGARD HATH NEED OF BALDER'S MIGHT-- AND THE REALM ETERNAL SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
NOW, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!
I DID WARN THEE --ACCEPT HALF MY THRONE-- OR FACE THE LEGION OF THE LOST!
BUT, THEY BE DEAD!
NAY! THEY DO BUT SLEEP A FROZEN SLEEP--
UNTIL THE QUEEN OF THE NORNS SEES FIT TO BID THEM-- WAKE!
THEN STRIKE AS THOU WILT!
BALDER SHALL NOT FLINCH!
THERE STILL IS TIME, ASGARDIAN!
DO BUT SAY THE WORD, AND KARNILLA SHALL DRIVE THEM BACK!
I SAY THEE NAY, MY QUEEN--FOR TIME HATH NOW RUN OUT!
KLANG!
THERE BE A NEED FAR GREATER--THERE BE DANGER FAR MORE DEADLY!
THE GOLDEN REALM DOTH CALL HER SONS-- AND BALDER SHALL GIVE ANSWER!
5

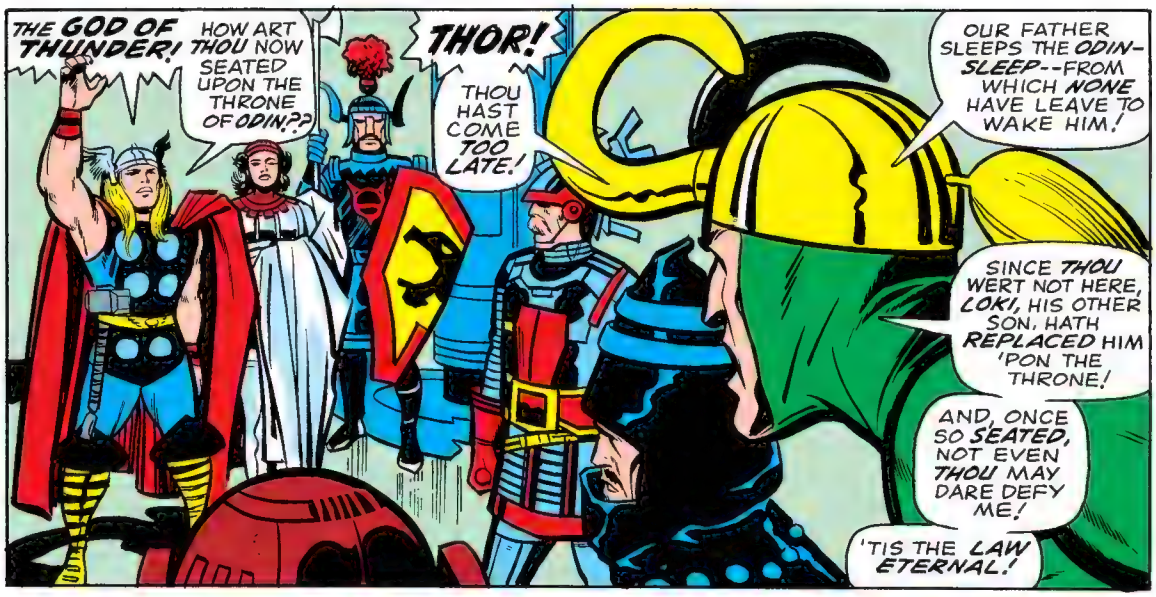

BUT, EVEN BEYOND THE REACH OF FABLED ASGARD, THE AWESOME DANGER IS PERCEIVED...
EVEN AS FAR AS THE WORLD OF THE ALIEN COLONIZERS-- A THOUSAND GALAXIES AWAY--*
OUR IONIC PROBE-SCOPES ARE DETECTING DEADLY PULSATIONS FROM THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE--
PULSATIONS SO POWERFUL THAT THEY CAN ONLY MEAN THE END OF ALL OF LIFE IS NEAR AT HAND!
WE MUST DISPATCH THE ROBOTIC RECORDER! ONLY HE CAN ENTER THE FORBIDDEN BLACK GALAXY!
PERHAPS 'TIS THERE THE MENACE LIES!
*THE DISTANCE IS APPROXIMATE! TO FIND THE EXACT MILEAGE, WE'D HAVE TO REFER ONCE MORE TO THOR #131, REMEMBER? --SPACE-MINDED STAN.


BUT, NOT EVEN THE MYSTIC BIOVERSE OF EGO, THE LIVING PLANET, CAN FURNISH THE CLUE--*
OBSERVATION: ALL IS AS IT HAS EVER BEEN!
CONCLUSION! THE ANSWER TO THE GREATEST THREAT OF ALL TIME MUST BE FOUND ELSEWHERE!
*IF YOU GUESSED THAT WE TOSSED IN THIS LITTLE SEQUENCE MAINLY TO JOG YOUR MEMORY ABOUT SOME OF THOR'S FORMER FANTASTIC FOES, GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS! AFTER ALL, WE NEVER KNOW WHEN OUR LONG-HAIRED LOTHARIO MAY BE MEETING THEM AGAIN! AND NOW, BACK TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND--

IN ASGARD ITSELF, WE FIND THREE OLD FRIENDS BATTLING A BOUT OF BOREDOM IN THEIR FAVORITE, TIME-WORN MANNER--
HAVE AT THEE, WITLESS KNAVES!
DIDST THINK TO MATCH THE SAVAGE SKILL OF FANDRAL THE DASHING?
NO NEED FOR MERE WEAPON HATH VALOROUS VOLSTAGG!
WITH MOUNTAINOUS GIRTH ALONE DO I TOPPLE YON BABBLING BUMPKINS!
BACK, YE WHIMPERING, WHINING SONS OF SATAN!
BACK, BEFORE THE MATCHLESS MACE OF HOGUN, CALLED THE GRIM!

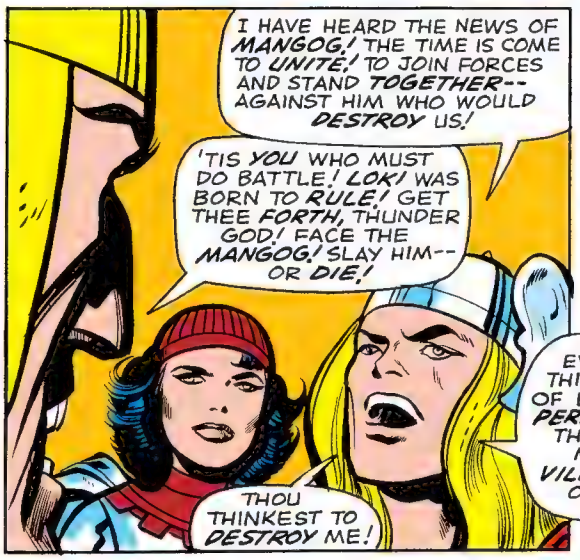
BUT SUDDENLY, THE SHRILL, PIERCING, RAUCOUS VOICE OF LOKI RENTS THE AIR LIKE A BANSHEE'S WAIL--!
DESIST!
THY LIEGE COMMANDS!
WHILST ODIN SLEEPS, 'TIS LOKI WHO DOTH REIGN!
THOU SHRIEKEST LIKE A JACKDAW--
BUT NE'ER WILT THOU REPLACE THE SLUMBERING EAGLE!
WELL THOU KNOWEST, EVIL ONE--THOU ART MONARCH IN NAME ALONE!
NO MATTER! SINCE BATTLE THOU DESIRE--THEN BATTLE SHALT THOU HAVE!
ATTEND THEE THE WORDS OF LOKI!
THEN SPEAK, AND HAVE DONE WITH IT!
WHERE CANST THOU FIND FOE WORTHY OF VOLSTAGG'S METTLE?
HIM WHO IS CALLED MANGOG IS REBORN!
MANGOG--HIM WHOM EVEN ODIN FEARS!
MANGOG, SOLE SURVIVOR OF A LONG-DEAD RACE!
MANGOG WILT THOU FIGHT!
DO NOT RETURN TILL HE BE SLAIN!
LOKI HATH SPOKEN!
IF MANGOG TRULY LIVES--THEN NONE ARE SAFE!
NAUGHT BUT THE POWER OF ODIN CAN AID US!
BUT, HE DOTH SLEEP THE ODIN-SLEEP!
--FROM WHICH HE NE'ER MAY BE AWOKE--
LEST LIFE ITSELF MAY LEAVE HIM!

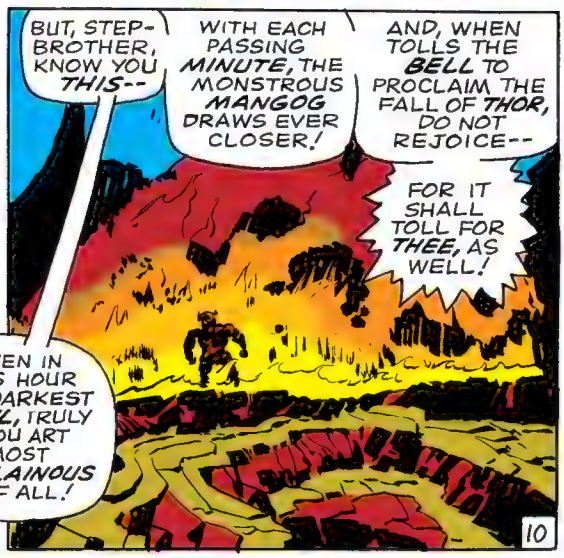
IT HATH BEEN SAID THAT SHOULD THE MANGOG BE REBORN--
EVEN ODIN WOULD STAND HELPLESS BEFORE HIS WRATH!
AYE! NOT ALL THE POWER OF ASGARD CAN GIVE HIM PAUSE!
WE ARE TRULY DOOMED!
BUT WE WILL DIE LIKE WARRIORS!
DIDST THOU SAY-- DIE?
STAND FAST, VOLUMINOUS ONE! WHERE GOEST THOU?
UNHAND ME, NOBLE FANDRAL! I DO BUT HASTEN TO SUMMON THE GOD OF THUNDER!
BUT EVEN HE HATH NOT POWER ENOW!
FIE! 'TIS NO TIME TO QUIBBLE OVER TRIFLES!
I MUST BID FAREWELL TO MY DEVOTED WIFE!
DEVOTED WIFE INDEED!
'TWAS TO ESCAPE HER IRE THAT HE DIDST JOIN US, LO THOSE MANY MOONS AGO!
TO HORSE, ROTUND ONE-- LEST WE SURMISE THOU ART AFRAID!
AFRAID?!!
WHAT MEANING HATH SUCH A WORD TO VOLSTAGG?
HATH IT NOT BE SAID THAT VOLSTAGG'S VERY NAME SPELLS BRAVERY INCARNATE?
AYE, IT HATH BEEN OFTEN STATED--
BUT ONLY BY THEE THYSELF!
HAH! 'TIS DONE! I HAVE TRULY SENT THEM TO THEIR DOOM!
BUT WHAT OF US, MY LORD?
IS NOT ALL OF ASGARD DOOMED-- SO LONG AS THE MANGOG DOTH APPROACH?
IN THINE UNYIELDING HATRED OF ALL WHO ART ALLIED WITH THOR, THOU MUST NOT FORGET THE DANGER WHICH DOTH CONFRONT US ALL!
SILENCE! THOU ART ADDRESSING THY RIGHTFUL KING!
NOT SO, PERFIDIOUS ONE!
A VOICE-- BEHIND ME!
WHO DARES TO SPEAK!


THE GOD OF THUNDER!
HOW ART THOU NOW SEATED UPON THE THRONE OF ODIN??
THOR!
THOU HAST COME TOO LATE!
OUR FATHER SLEEPS THE ODIN-SLEEP--FROM WHICH NONE HAVE LEAVE TO WAKE HIM!
SINCE THOU WERT NOT HERE, LOKI, HIS OTHER SON, HATH REPLACED HIM 'PON THE THRONE!
AND, ONCE SO SEATED, NOT EVEN THOU MAY DARE DEFY ME!
'TIS THE LAW ETERNAL!

THOR CARES NAUGHT FOR MOUTHINGS WITHOUT MEANING--FOR WORDS WITHOUT WORTH!
BROTHER, STAND THEE BACK!
LOKI COMMANDS!

THE THRONE IS MINE! THE SCEPTER IS MINE! --DEATH TO HIM WHO OPPOSES ME!
EVIL ONE, WHAT PROFITETH A MAN TO KEEP HIS THRONE--
IF HE SHALL LOSE--A UNIVERSE?


I HAVE HEARD THE NEWS OF MANGOG! THE TIME IS COME TO UNITE! TO JOIN FORCES AND STAND TOGETHER--AGAINST HIM WHO WOULD DESTROY US!
'TIS YOU WHO MUST DO BATTLE! LOKI WAS BORN TO RULE! GET THEE FORTH, THUNDER GOD! FACE THE MANGOG! SLAY HIM--OR DIE!
THOU THINKEST TO DESTROY ME!

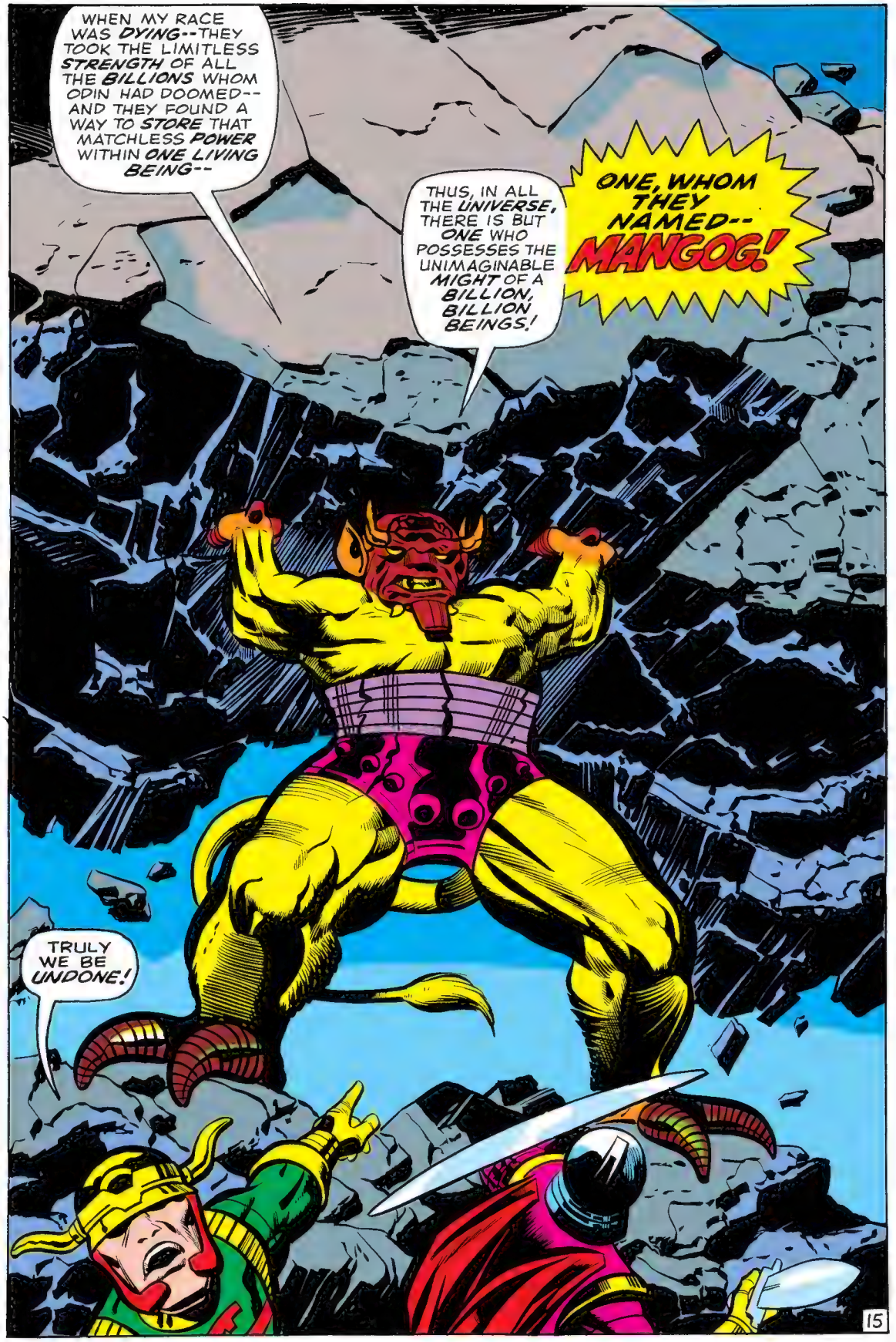

BUT, STEP-BROTHER, KNOW YOU THIS--
WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE, THE MONSTROUS MANGOG DRAWS EVER CLOSER!
AND, WHEN TOLLS THE BELL TO PROCLAIM THE FALL OF THOR, DO NOT REJOICE--
FOR IT SHALL TOLL FOR THEE, AS WELL!
EVEN IN THIS HOUR OF DARKEST PERIL, TRULY THOU ART MOST VILLAINOUS OF ALL!

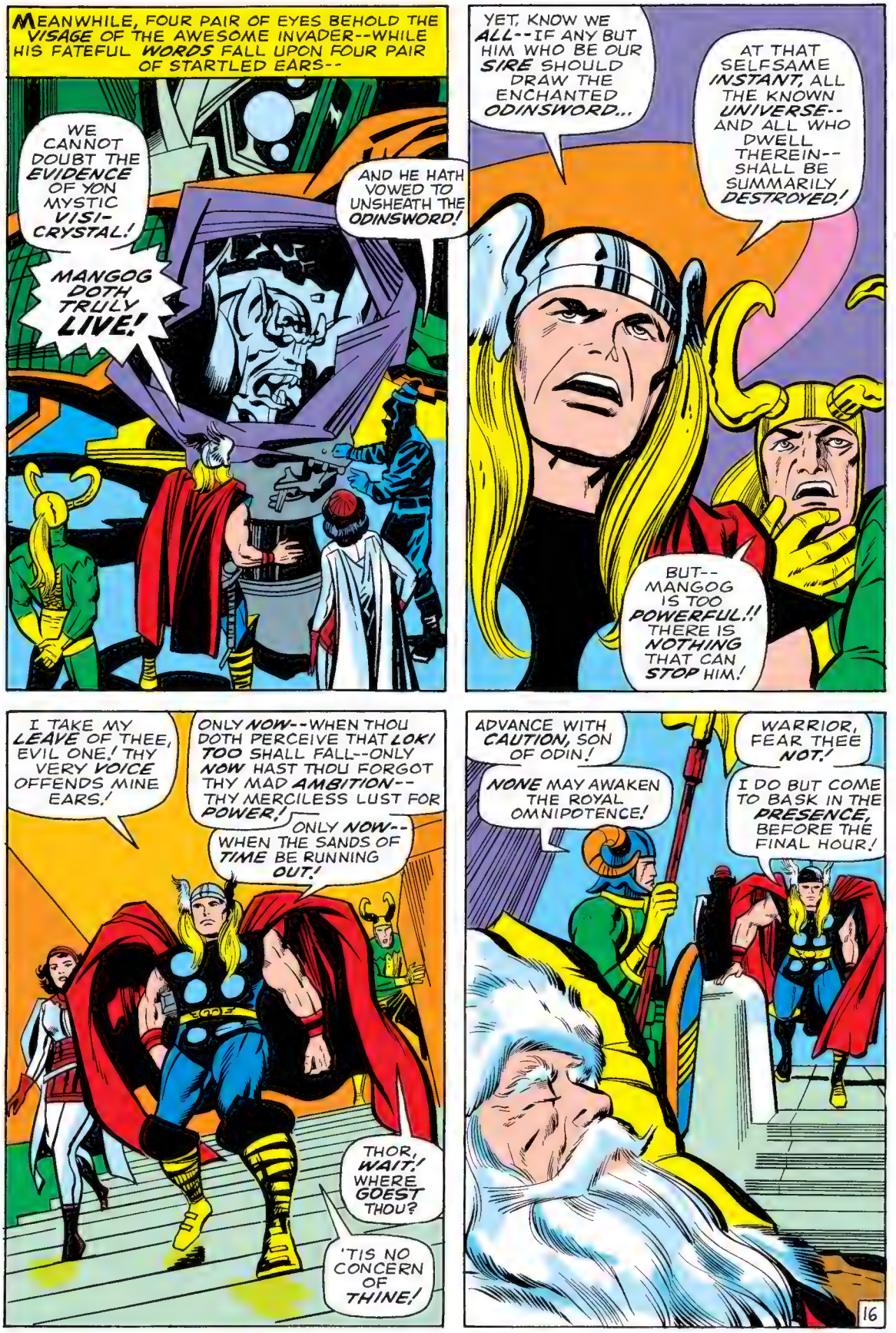
AND, AS THOUGH TO LEND EMPHASIS TO THE THUNDER GOD'S WORDS, THE MENACING MANGOG--AT ASGARD'S FURTHEST PERIPHERY--CONFRONTS A GROUP OF GARGANTUAN STORM GIANTS--
STAND ASIDE!
I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE LIKES OF THEE!
THOU ART ALIEN TO THIS LAND--THUS, THOU MUST DIE!
FOOLS! THE MANGOG HATH SAID--STAND ASIDE!
IN ALL THE UNIVERSE--THERE ARE NONE TO MATCH MY POWER!
MY GOAL AT LAST! A DISTANT OUTPOST--A LONELY BASTION OF ASGARDIAN WARRIORS!
I WILL SMASH IT INTO WORTHLESS RUBBLE!!
NOW LET THE FORCES OF ODIN TREMBLE--
AS THEY BEHOLD THE MIGHT OF--MANGOG!
11

AT THE ACCURSED COMMAND OF ODIN, MY ENTIRE RACE WAS ETERNALLY DESTROYED --FOR DARING TO INVADE THE REALM OF ASGARD!
BUT, BEFORE THEY FELL-- THEY CREATED MIGHTY MANGOG!!
AND I SHALL GRANT THEM VENGEANCE!!
THE MOST AWESOME VENGEANCE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

EMPLOY THE ODINIAN FORCE ARROW!
THERE BE NO OTHER WEAPON TO STOP ONE SUCH AS HE!
SO BE IT! LET THE ARROW BE LAUNCHED!
SHOOM!
THEY HAVE SHATTERED THE MOUNTAIN ABOVE ME!
'TIS DONE! NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN SURVIVE THE ENSUING HOLOCAUST!
HE HATH BEEN BURIED BENEATH WEIGHT ENOW TO CRUSH AN EMPIRE!
ASGARD IS SAVED!
THE MANGOG LIVES NO MORE!
13

RAGNAROK SHALL NOT COME THIS NIGHT!
OUR NAMES SHALL BE ETCHED UPON THE PILLARS OF TIME!
BECAUSE OF US-- THE UNIVERSE STANDS!
BUT SEE-- BEFORE OUR EYES-- WHAT NOW BEFALLS?!!
IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE!
THE ROCKS-- THEY BEGIN TO MOVE!
SUDDENLY, IMPOSSIBLY, THE ENTIRE MULTI-MILLION-TON WEIGHT OF BOULDERS FLIES THRU THE AIR LIKE COUNTLESS GRAINS OF SAND--
THE MOUNTAIN IS BEWITCHED! IT MOVES--WITH A LIFE OF ITS OWN!
NAY! 'TIS NOT OF ITS OWN ACCORD THAT IT MOVES--
'TIS THE MANGOG!! STILL HE LIVES!
PUNY ASGARDIANS --NOW KNOW YOU THIS--!
NOTHING CAN HALT THY NEMESIS!
WHEN ODIN VANQUISHED THOSE WHO SPAWNED ME, HE SEALED THE FATE OF A UNIVERSE AS WELL!
FOR MANGOG SHALL REACH THE PALACE IMPERIAL--AND THERE WILL I UNSHEATH--THE ODINSWORD ITSELF!
14


WHEN MY RACE WAS DYING--THEY TOOK THE LIMITLESS STRENGTH OF ALL THE BILLIONS WHOM ODIN HAD DOOMED--AND THEY FOUND A WAY TO STORE THAT MATCHLESS POWER WITHIN ONE LIVING BEING--
THUS, IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, THERE IS BUT ONE WHO POSSESSES THE UNIMAGINABLE MIGHT OF A BILLION, BILLION BEINGS!
ONE, WHOM THEY NAMED--
MANGOG!
TRULY WE BE UNDONE!


MEANWHILE, FOUR PAIR OF EYES BEHOLD THE VISAGE OF THE AWESOME INVADER--WHILE HIS FATEFUL WORDS FALL UPON FOUR PAIR OF STARTLED EARS--
WE CANNOT DOUBT THE EVIDENCE OF YON MYSTIC VISI-CRYSTAL!
AND HE HATH VOWED TO UNSHEATH THE ODINSWORD!
MANGOG DOTH TRULY LIVE!
YET, KNOW WE ALL--IF ANY BUT HIM WHO BE OUR SIRE SHOULD DRAW THE ENCHANTED ODINSWORD...
AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, ALL THE KNOWN UNIVERSE--AND ALL WHO DWELL THEREIN--SHALL BE SUMMARILY DESTROYED!
BUT--MANGOG IS TOO POWERFUL!! THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN STOP HIM!
I TAKE MY LEAVE OF THEE, EVIL ONE! THY VERY VOICE OFFENDS MINE EARS!
ONLY NOW--WHEN THOU DOTH PERCEIVE THAT LOKI TOO SHALL FALL--ONLY NOW HAST THOU FORGOT THY MAD AMBITION--THY MERCILESS LUST FOR POWER!
ONLY NOW--WHEN THE SANDS OF TIME BE RUNNING OUT!
THOR, WAIT! WHERE GOEST THOU?
'TIS NO CONCERN OF THINE!
ADVANCE WITH CAUTION, SON OF ODIN!
NONE MAY AWAKEN THE ROYAL OMNIPOTENCE!
WARRIOR, FEAR THEE NOT!
I DO BUT COME TO BASK IN THE PRESENCE, BEFORE THE FINAL HOUR!

SLEEP THOU WELL, MY FATHER!
SLEEP THE SLEEP WHICH GRANTS THEE LIFE ETERNAL!
AND, WHILST THOU SLUMBEREST ON--
THOR SHALT VANQUISH THE MANGOG --ELSE SHALL I PERISH IN THE TRYING!
AND, STEADFAST AT THY SIDE--EVER SHALT THOU FIND THE GODDESS SIF!
I SAY THEE NAY, MY LADY! WHERE GOES THE GOD OF THUNDER, THERE MUST HE GO ALONE!
WHILST OUR NOBLE LEIGE LIES SLEEPING, HERE SHALT THOU REMAIN --EVER CONSTANT --EVER VIGILANT!
BUT, WHAT OF THEE, MY PRINCE! WHERE THOU GOEST, SIF WOULDST GO!
AND IF THOU PERISH--THEN LET ME SHARE THY FATE!
MOST LOVELY SIF! MOST TRULY CHERISHED LADY! WOULD THERE WERE WORDS MY HEART COULD SPEAK!
BUT NOW MUST COME THE PARTING!
AND WHILST I BE GONE REMEMBER--NO MATTER WHERE THE BATTLE TAKE ME, THE HEART OF THOR IS EVER HERE-- WITH BEAUTEOUS SIF!
MAY THE EYES OF ASGARD BE EVER UPON THEE, MOST NOBLE LORD--MOST NOBLE LOVE!
LOOK YOUR LAST, MY LADY!
NAUGHT BUT DEATH SHALL CLAIM HIM!
17

AND NOW-- TO FIND THE MANGOG!
IN THE DISTANCE --A FIGURE, UNHORSED!
'TIS A FALLEN WARRIOR! I MUST GIVE HIM AID!
SAVE THY WANING STRENGTH, ASGARDIAN! SUCCOR HATH ARRIVED!
THUNDER GOD-- FLEE! TAKE TO THY HEELS, SON OF ODIN!
I HAVE BEHELD THE MANGOG! I HAVE FELT HIS POWER!
NOT ALL THE FABLED STRENGTH OF THOR--NOR A THOUSAND SUCH-- CAN MAKE HIM CANCEL HALF A STEP!
ALL THE POWER OF A BILLION, BILLION WARRIORS ARE POSSESSED BY MANGOG!
HE HATH SWORN TO HERALD RAGNAROK--AND HE CANNOT BE DENIED!
'TIS AS I FEARED!
BUT, WHEN THE CAUSE BE HOPELESS --WHEN THE FIGHT BE LOST--
'TIS THEN THE WARRIOR BORN DOTH BATTLE-- WITH VIGOR ANEW!
REST THY FINAL REST, VALIANT ONE! THOU HAST SERVED ASGARD WELL!

AHEAD OF ME! THE REMNANTS OF A BROKEN LEGION STAGGER ON!
WHAT MONSTROUS DISASTER HATH BEFALLEN THEE, BRAVE WARRIORS?
WE HAVE MET THE MANGOG!
WITH BUT ONE BLOW HE DID FELL OUR OUR RANKS ENTIRE!
TURN THEE BACK, GOD OF THUNDER! IF THOU DO NOT SURELY THOU WILT SHARE OUR FATE!
WHAT TALK BE THIS FROM ONE WHO WEARS THE ARMOR OF IMPERIAL ASGARD?
THERE BE NO FOE WE WOULD NOT FACE FOR THEE!
BUT MANGOG IS FAR MORE THAN FOE! TRULY, HE BE LIVING DEATH!
MANGOG IS-- SUPREME!
WARRIOR--HEED OUR WORDS! THOU KNOW NOT WHAT LIES BEFORE THEE!
I ONLY KNOW IT LIVES--THEREFORE I MUST NOT FEAR IT!
FINALLY, THE THUNDER GOD ENCOUNTERS--
THE REMNANTS OF A ONCE-PROUD ASGARDIAN STRIKE FORCE!
SURELY NO SINGLE BEING COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH UNTOLD CARNAGE!
IF SUCH BE EVIDENCE OF MANGOG'S MIGHT-- THEN WHO CAN FORESTALL RAGNAROK??

VOICES-- FROM WITHIN YONDER ROCK!
NAY, 'TIS NOT ONE ROCK, ALONE--
'TIS MANY-- MOVED TOGETHER TO FORM A NATURAL CAGE!
THAT HAND--THAT GLEAMING BLADE-- THEY CAN BELONG TO NONE BUT FANDRAL!
'TIS THOR!! HE HATH FOUND US!
BE THIS STILL MORE OF MANGOG'S DOING?
AYE, WITH BUT ONE HAND HE TRAPPED US LIKE BEASTS!
NOW SET US FREE--TO FIGHT AGAIN!
NO NEED FOR HASTE!
NOT TILL WE'RE CERTAIN-- THAT MANGOG HATH GONE!
MANGOG!! WHAT IF HE HATH NOT DEPARTED?
THOR STANDS ALONE!
BEHIND ME-- MUFFLED FOOTFALLS!
YON SHADOW ON THE WALL!
I HAVE FOUND THE ONE I SEEK!
NOT SO, ASGARDIAN!
'TIS MANGOG WHO HATH FOUND THE ACCURSED SON OF ODIN!
BY THY FATHER'S COMMAND, A MIGHTY RACE DIDST PERISH--
EVEN AS THOU SHALT PERISH NOW!
VERILY WE SAY--
CONTINUED-ETH!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
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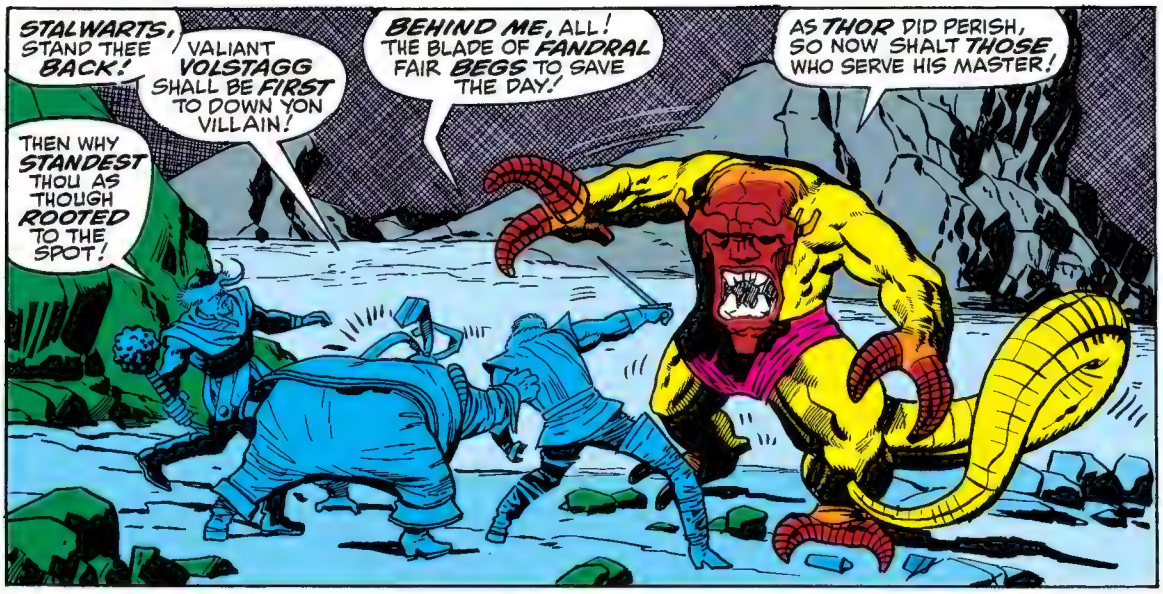
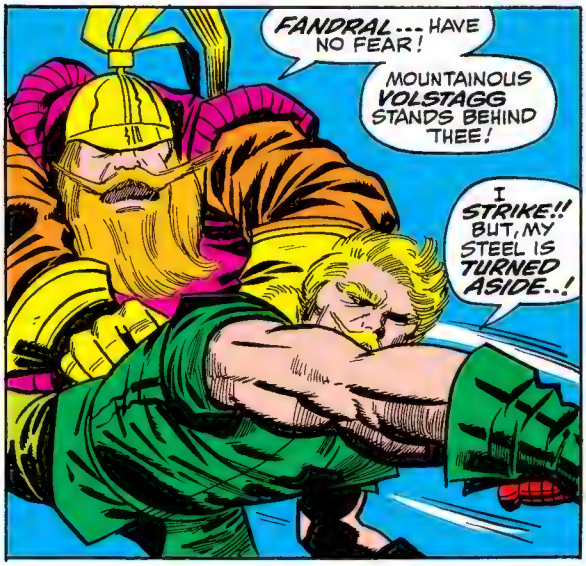
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
The HAMMER and the HOLOCAUST!
POSSESSING THE STRENGTH OF AN ENTIRE ALIEN RACE... OF A BILLION BILLION BEINGS... THE INDESCRIBABLE MANGOG HAS SWORN TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF HIS MURDEROUS FOREBEARS... BY DESTROYING THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE..!!
AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SHAKE YOU UP ---FORGET IT!
MANGOG! I HAVE FOUND THEE, AT LAST!
NAY, SON OF ODIN... 'TIS I WHO HAVE FOUND THEE!
AND NOW ---PREPARE TO DIE!
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY HAVE CREATED YON EPIC ENCHANTMENT JUST FOR THEE!
EMBELLISHED BY: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN
AND NOW, PREPARE THYSELF FOR SUCH WONDERMENT AS THOU HAST NEVER KNOWN...

THINE IMMORTAL FATHER--- CURSED BE HIS NAME---HATH ANNIHILATED THE RACE FROM WHICH I SPRING!
A THOUSAND, THOUSAND WORLDS--- A BILLION, BILLION BEINGS---GONE ---ALL GONE!
NOW THINK UPON IT, DOOMED ONE--!
THINK WHAT AN AWESOME PRICE MUST NOW BE PAID ---FOR THE MURDER OF MANGOG'S BRETHREN!
THOUGH THY WORDS BE TRUE--- THEIR ESSENCE IS FALSE!
THEY WHO WERE SLAIN HAD THEM-SELVES BROUGHT DEATH TO A THOUSAND GALAXIES!
THEY DARED ATTACK HALLOWED ASGARD ITSELF---AND, HAD WE FALLEN---THE COSMOS ENTIRE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO MORE!
THUS, MY FATHER DID BUT END A LIVING CANCER!
EVEN AS I, HIS SON, NOW SHALL PUT AN END TO THEE!
SO BE IT!
2.

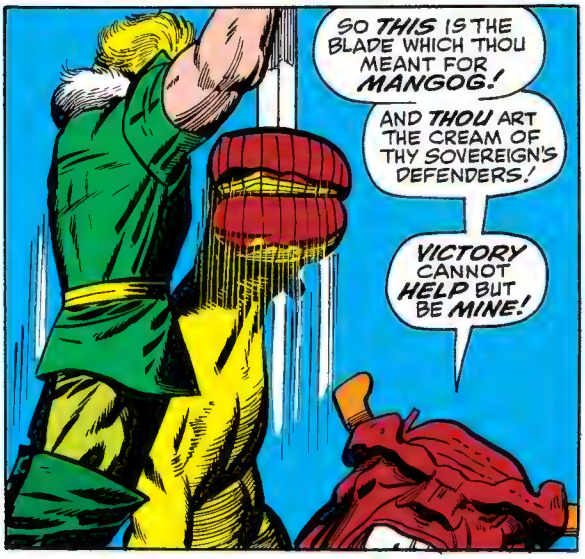
NO MATTER HOW MIGHTY THY LIMBS MAY BE...
THE HAMMER OF THOR SHALL GIVE THEM PAUSE!
...WHILST THE SINEWS OF THOR SHALL STRIKE WITHOUT LET---
...SO LONG AS EVIL ENDURES!
TRULY THOU ART OFFSPRING OF ODIN! TRULY THOU HAST POWER BEYOND COMPARE!
BUT 'TIS MANGOG WHO IS THE MASTER!
SEE HOW I SHRUG OFF THY STRONGEST BLOW---
AND HURL THEE AWAY... LIKE A LEAF IN A STORM!
SKRAK!
AND SO THE VENGEANCE BEGINS!
WHILST THE THUNDER GOD FALLS TO HIS DEATH AMONGST YON BOULDERS...
ASGARD, ALIKE, SHALL FALL--- BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MANGOG!
3.

BUT, WHAT OF FANDRAL, HOGUN, AND THE VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG..?
...ALL OF WHOM ARE IMPRISONED IN THE ROCK PILE YONDER..!
GROSS COWARD THOU ART... AFRAID TO SET US FREE!
NOTHING THAT LIVES... NOTHING THAT BREATHES ...CAN STAY THE WRATH OF MANGOG!
BUT, HOLD! A VOICE DOTH ASSAIL MY EARS!
IF HARM HATH COME TO NOBLE THOR... MOST DEARLY SHALT THOU PAY, UNGODLY ONE!
'TIS THE ASGARDIAN GNATS I HAD THOUGHT ENTOMBED!
THEY DARE TO CHALLENGE MANGOG?!!
ONE MERE THRUST OF MY MULTI-POWERED TAIL...
AND THEY SHALL DARE NO MORE!
KUROOM
4.


STALWARTS, STAND THEE BACK!
VALIANT VOLSTAGG SHALL BE FIRST TO DOWN YON VILLAIN!
BEHIND ME, ALL! THE BLADE OF FANDRAL FAIR BEGS TO SAVE THE DAY!
AS THOR DID PERISH, SO NOW SHALT THOSE WHO SERVE HIS MASTER!
THEN WHY STANDEST THOU AS THOUGH ROOTED TO THE SPOT!


FANDRAL... HAVE NO FEAR!
MOUNTAINOUS VOLSTAGG STANDS BEHIND THEE!
I STRIKE!! BUT, MY STEEL IS TURNED ASIDE..!

WHAT LOOKS LIKE SKIN IS TRULY LIVING ARMOR
NO STEEL CAN HOPE TO PIERCE IT!
HOGUN... TO MY SIDE! FANDRAL HATH BEEN UNDONE!

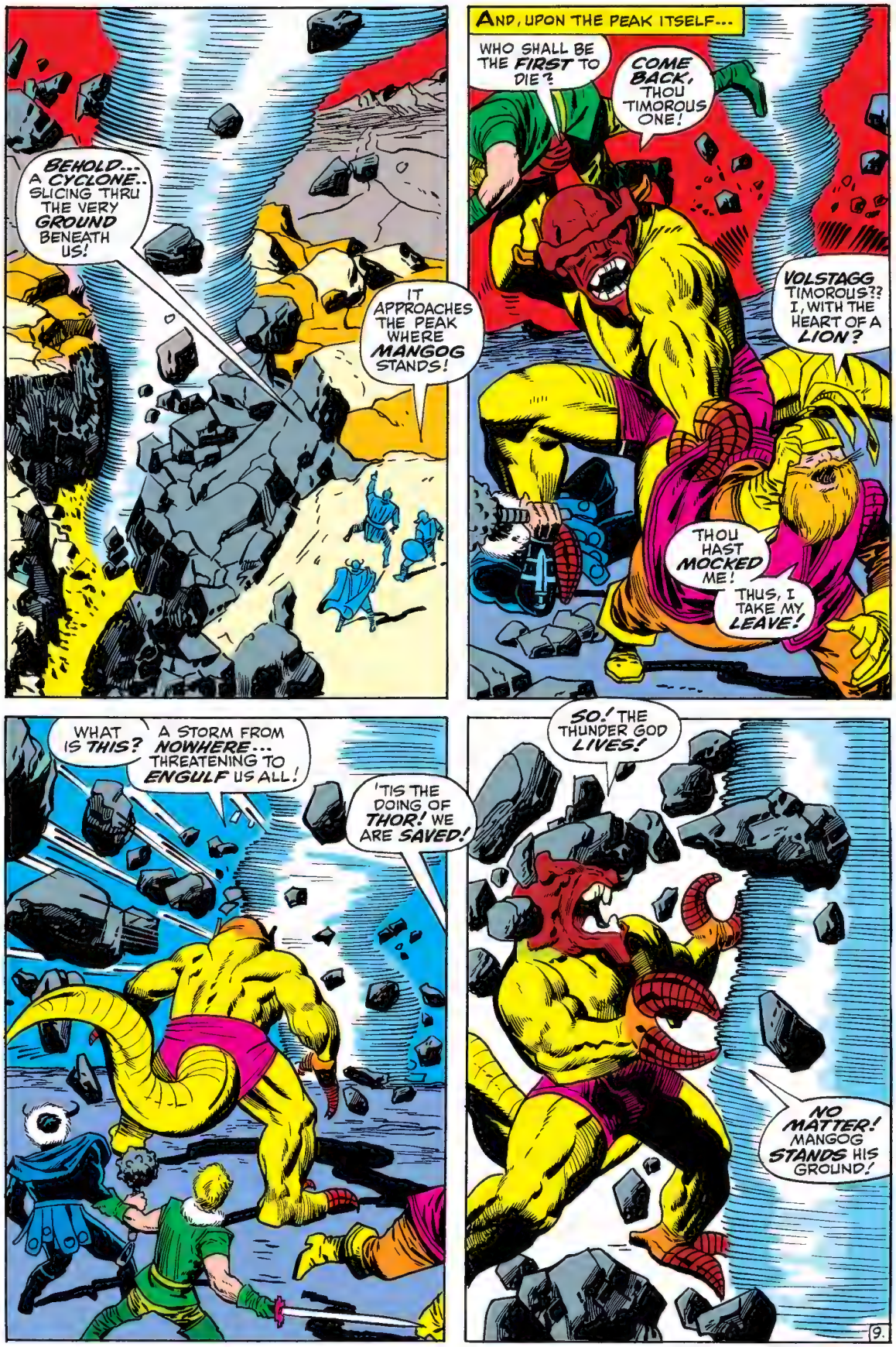

SO THIS IS THE BLADE WHICH THOU MEANT FOR MANGOG!
AND THOU ART THE CREAM OF THY SOVEREIGN'S DEFENDERS!
VICTORY CANNOT HELP BUT BE MINE!

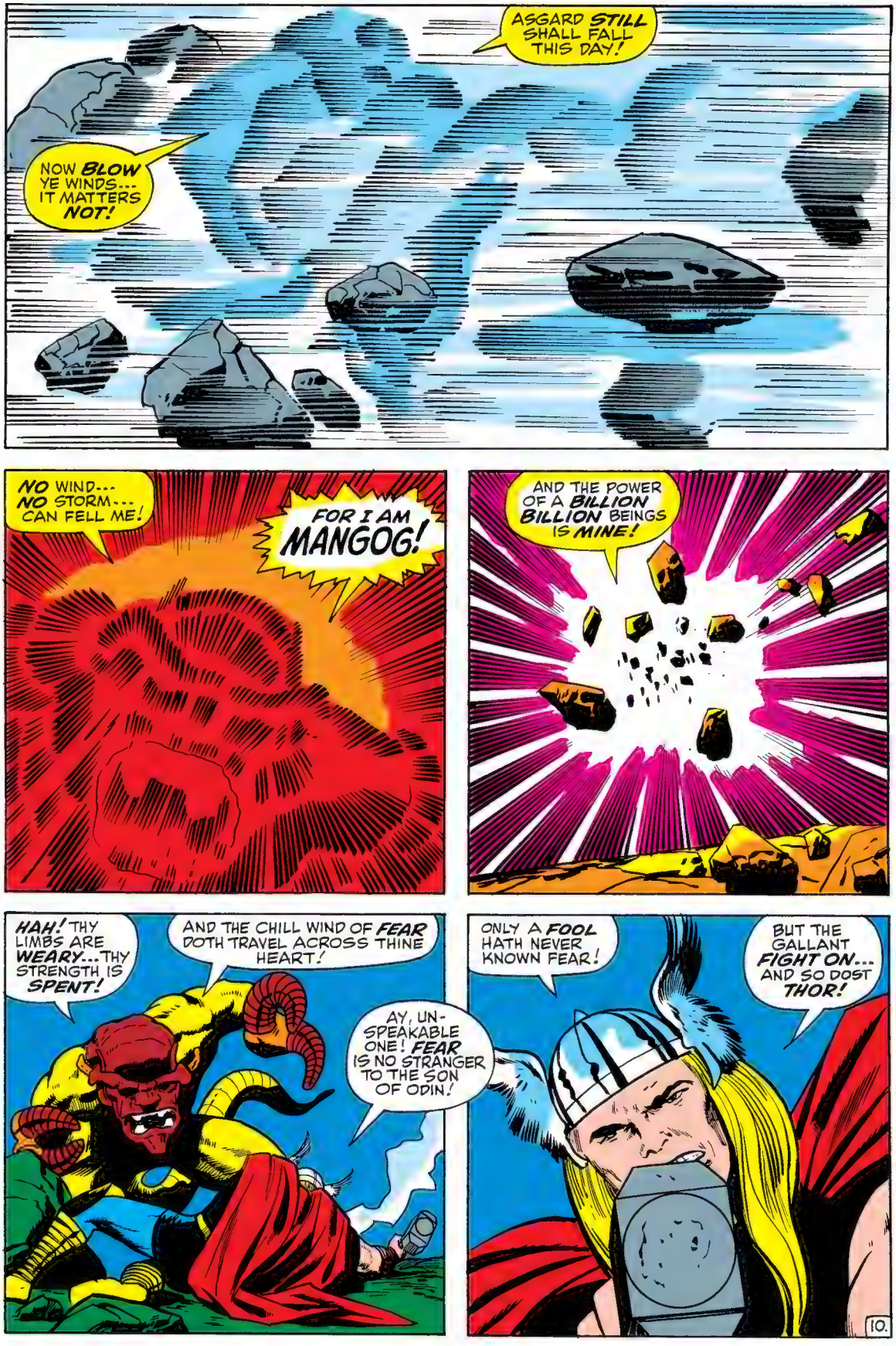
NEVER! NOT WHILST AN ASGARDIAN LIVES!
AND HOGUN STILL LIVES!
5.

MEANWHILE, IN THE GLITTERING THRONE ROOM OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN, THE EVIL LOKI LEARNS HOW HEAVY THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN---
MY LORD, OUR ARMIES HAVE BEEN PUT TO ROUT BY THE INDESCRIBABLE POWER OF MANGOG!
THRUOUT THE REALM NAUGHT IS SEEN BUT DEATH--AND CARNAGE!
WHILST ODIN SLUMBERS, 'TIS THOU WHO MUST LEAD US!
ALL IN GOOD TIME...ALL IN GOOD TIME!
DID NOT THE GOD OF THUNDER SPEED TO BATTLE?
WE SHALL WAIT... TILL I KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT MY BROTHER IS...DEAD!
BUT, BY THEN IT MAY BE ...TOO LATE!
SPEAK NO MORE! LOKI WEARIES OF SUCH MATTERS!
6

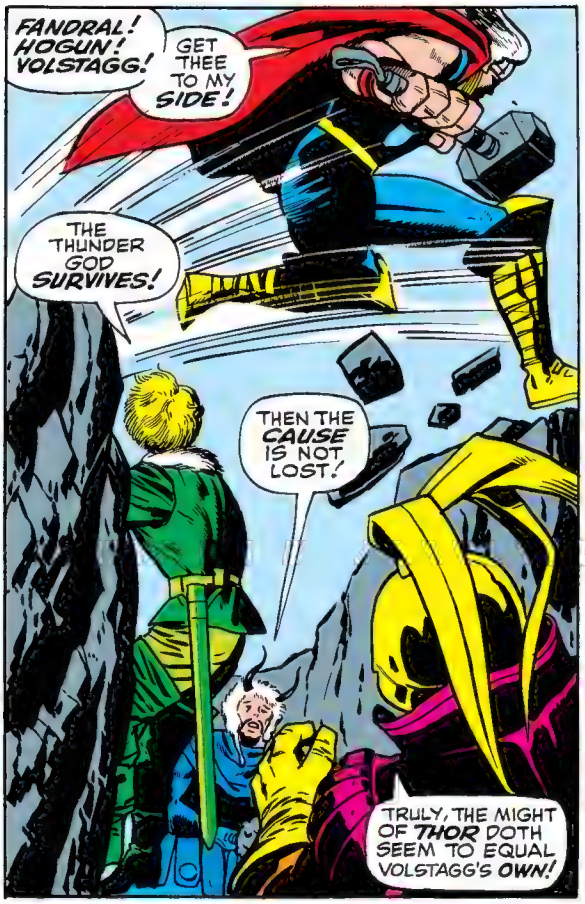
MY LORD, METHINKS THOU ART MORE CONCERNED WITH THY BROTHER'S CERTAIN DEATH---
---THAN WITH THE FATE OF THE REALM ETERNAL!
EVEN IF T'WERE SO...'TIS NO AFFAIR OF THINE!
ONCE THOR HAS FALLEN... WE SHALL INSURE THAT ODIN DOTH NOT AWAKEN!
THEN WILL THE CROWN BE MINE...FORE'ER!
AT THAT MOMENT, I SHALL SUMMON KARNILLA, QUEEN OF THE NORNS, TO COMBINE HER MAGIC WITH MINE---
AND THEN SHALL MANGOG FALL!
BUT, SIRE... WHAT IF THY MAGIC TOO SHALL FAIL?
IS NOT NOW THE TIME TO ACT?
PATIENCE, COUNSELOR... PATIENCE!
IS NOT LOKI CRAFTIEST OF ALL?
I HAVE OTHER MEN STILL UNDER ARMS...LOYAL BUT TO ME!
MY ELITE GUARD SHALL PROTECT US... THOUGH ASGARD ITSELF BE CRUSHED!
BUT, THEY ARE NOT TO JOIN THE FRAY...
TILL IT BE TOO LATE TO SAVE THE GOD OF THUNDER!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?
THE BEATEN, TATTERED REMNANTS OF WHAT HAD BEEN MY ELITE GUARD!
FORGIVE US, SON OF ODIN!
STORMING OUR HIDING PLACE, ON HIS WAY TO ASGARD, THE MONSTROUS MANGOG DISCOVERED US!
HUNDREDS WERE BY HIM SLAIN--- IN THE SPACE OF A DOZEN HEARTBEATS!

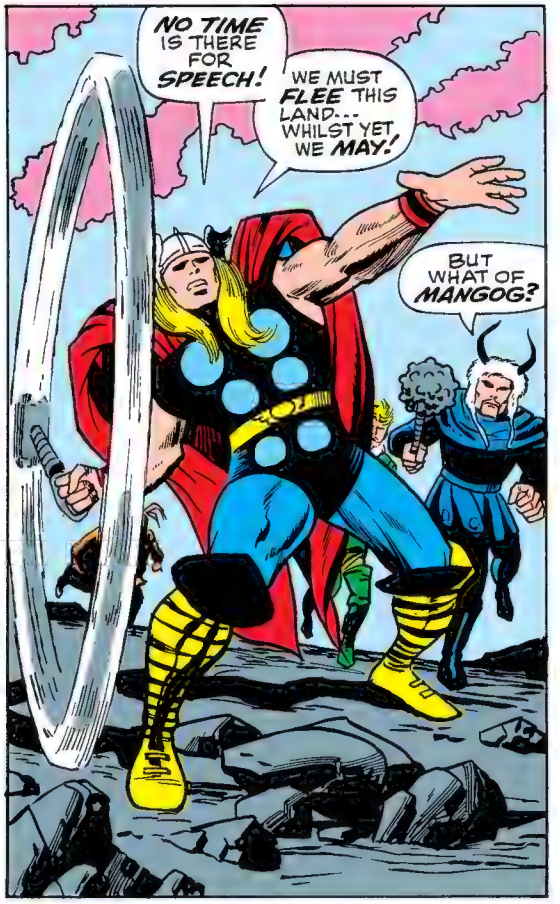
HIDE US, SIRE... GRANT US SHELTER!
NONE THERE ARE WHO MAY OPPOSE MANGOG.. AND STILL LIVE!
ASGARD IS, DOOMED! OUR ONLY HOPE IS FLIGHT! FOR, EVEN NOW HE DRAWS CLOSER--!
THOU SHOULD HAVE AIDED THE THUNDER GOD WHILST THERE WAS TIME!
NOW, THERE IS NO PLACE LEFT TO FLEE!
IF MANGOG DRAWS THE ODINSWORD... ALL THE UNIVERSE SHALL CRUMBLE ...AS RAGNAROK FALLS UPON US!
ENOUGH!
I MUST THINK! I MUST THINK!
AND, WHAT BETTER TIME TO CHANGE OUR SCENE, THEN WHILST THE GOD OF EVIL THINKS...
WITHOUT MY IMMORTAL STRENGTH... AND THE ENCHANTMENT OF MJOLNIR... I WOULD NOW BE IN THE AWE-SOME ARMS OF HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH!
NEVER HAVE I FACED SUCH FOE AS MANGOG!
NEVER HATH A BATTLE SEEMED MORE HOPELESS...OR A CAUSE MORE DESPERATE!
BUT STILL AM I THE GOD OF THUNDER!
STILL THE WIND AND THE STORM ARE MINE TO COMMAND!
AND COMMAND THEM I WILL!
8


BEHOLD... A CYCLONE.. SLICING THRU THE VERY GROUND BENEATH US!
IT APPROACHES THE PEAK WHERE MANGOG STANDS!
AND, UPON THE PEAK ITSELF...
WHO SHALL BE THE FIRST TO DIE?
COME BACK, THOU TIMOROUS ONE!
VOLSTAGG TIMOROUS?? I, WITH THE HEART OF A LION?
THOU HAST MOCKED ME!
THUS, I TAKE MY LEAVE!
WHAT IS THIS?
A STORM FROM NOWHERE... THREATENING TO ENGULF US ALL!
'TIS THE DOING OF THOR! WE ARE SAVED!
SO! THE THUNDER GOD LIVES!
NO MATTER! MANGOG STANDS HIS GROUND!
9.

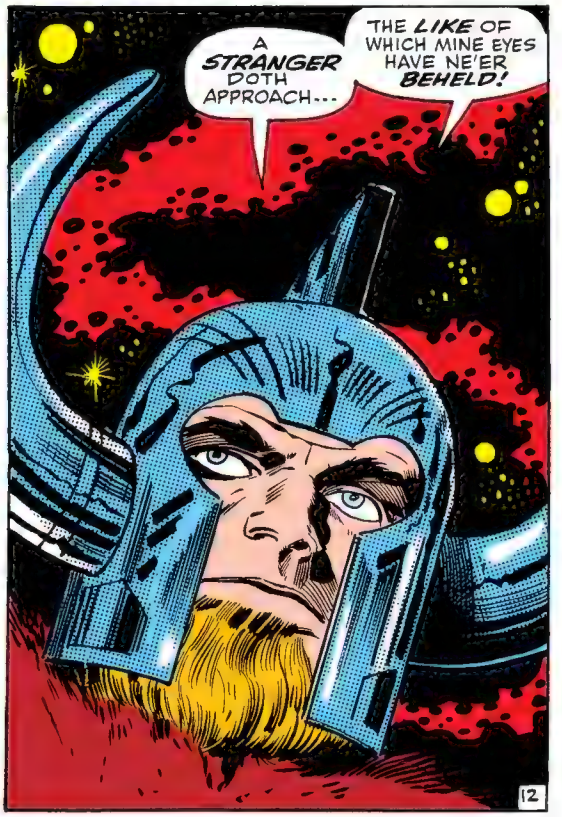

ASGARD STILL SHALL FALL THIS DAY!
NOW BLOW YE WINDS... IT MATTERS NOT!
NO WIND... NO STORM... CAN FELL ME!
FOR I AM MANGOG!
AND THE POWER OF A BILLION BILLION BEINGS IS MINE!
HAH! THY LIMBS ARE WEARY... THY STRENGTH IS SPENT!
AND THE CHILL WIND OF FEAR DOTH TRAVEL ACROSS THINE HEART!
AY, UN-SPEAKABLE ONE! FEAR IS NO STRANGER TO THE SON OF ODIN!
ONLY A FOOL HATH NEVER KNOWN FEAR!
BUT THE GALLANT FIGHT ON... AND SO DOST THOR!

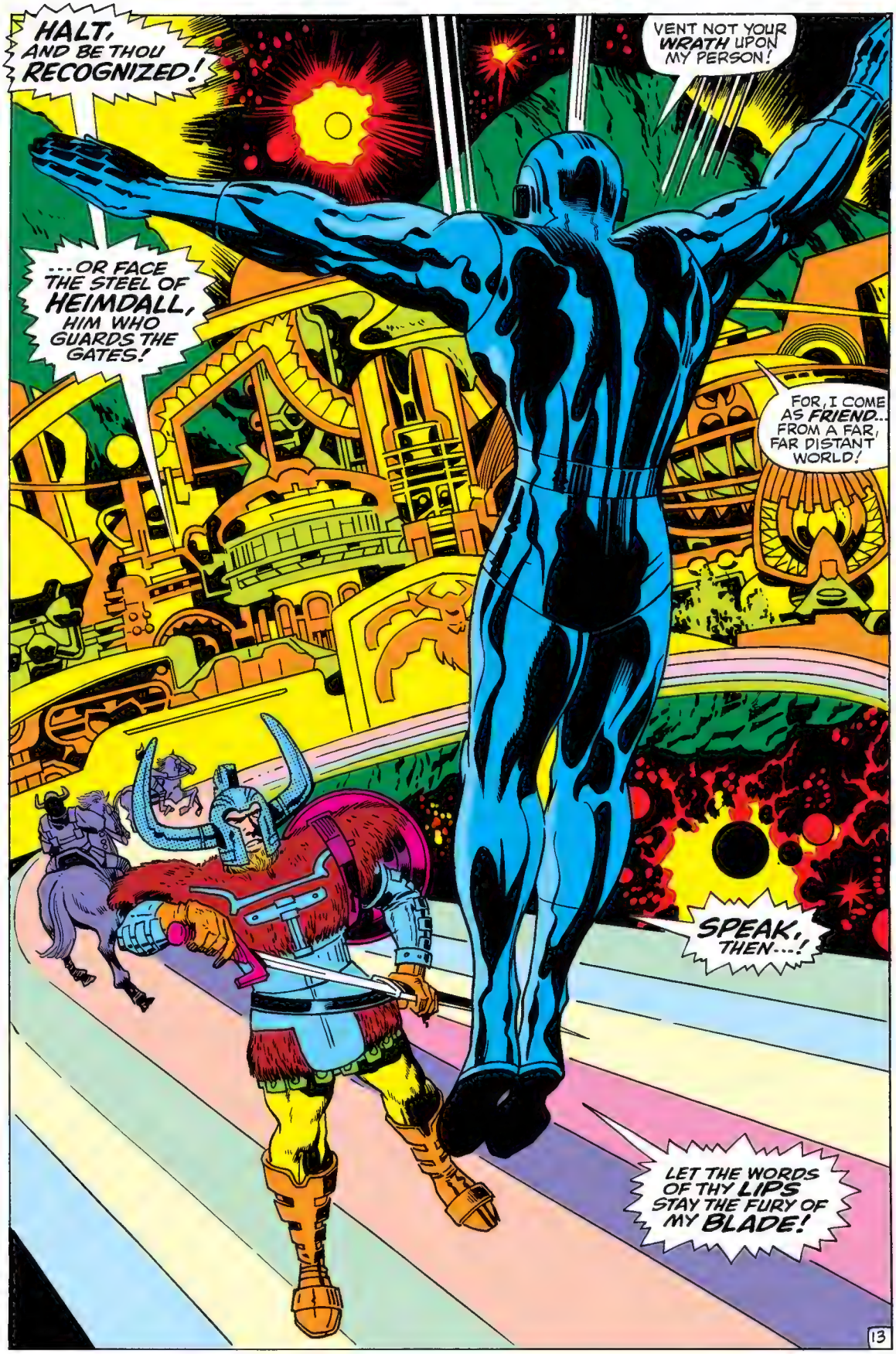
TASTE THOU, THEN, A BOLT OF PUREST LIGHTNING ---
---AS ONLY THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN SO CREATE IT!
LIGHTING ... AGAINST MANGOG?
TRULY THOU ART MAD!
MAD, MAYHAP! BUT EVEN THE MADMAN MAY FIGHT...AND EVEN THE MADMAN MAY WIN!
THEN, AS THE MONSTROUS MANGOG WALKS SLOWLY THRU THE SEETHING BLASTS, THE VERY SOIL BENEATH HIS FEET GROWS HOTTER---AND HOTTER... UNTIL---
'TIS DONE!
THE GROUND HATH ERUPTED ---LIKE A LIVING VOLCANO!
AND TRAPPED WITHIN YON LETHAL PYRE... STANDS MANGOG!
NOW MUST I FLEE... ERE THE LAND BE RAVAGED BY THE DEED JUST DONE!
FOR, IN THE WAKE OF SUCH POWER UNLEASHED---
--MUST COME THE UNTHINKABLE HOLOCAUST!


FANDRAL! HOGUN! VOLSTAGG!
GET THEE TO MY SIDE!
THE THUNDER GOD SURVIVES!
THEN THE CAUSE IS NOT LOST!
TRULY, THE MIGHT OF THOR DOTH SEEM TO EQUAL VOLSTAGG'S OWN!

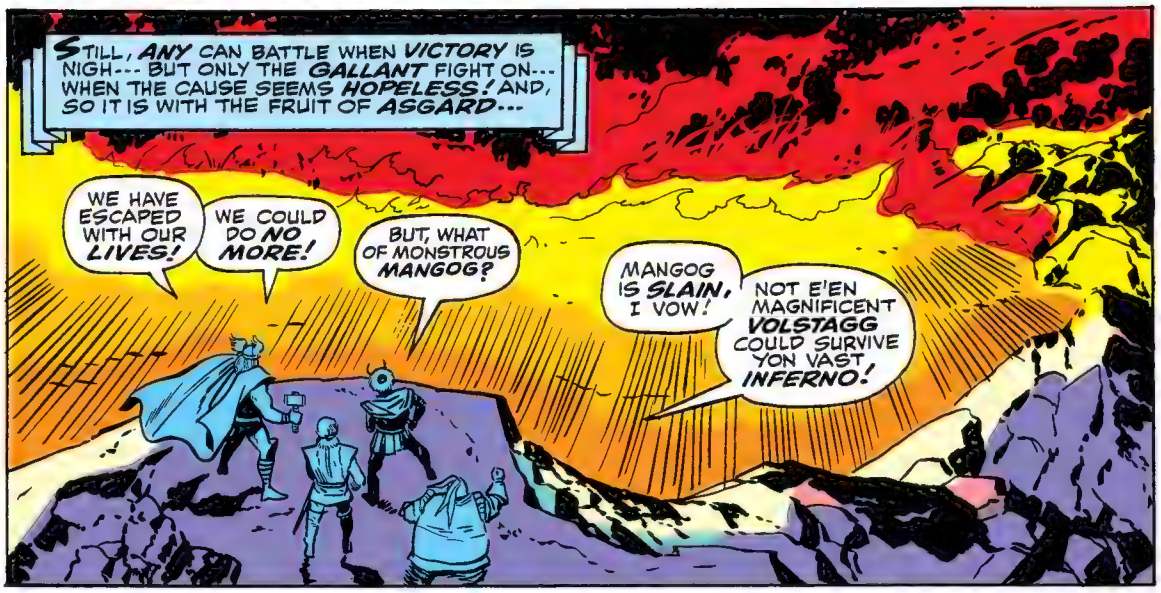

NO TIME IS THERE FOR SPEECH!
WE MUST FLEE THIS LAND... WHILST YET WE MAY!
BUT WHAT OF MANGOG?

METHINKS, ALAS, THE MONSTER STILL DOTH LIVE!
AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ON THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE TO ASGARD, WE FIND...

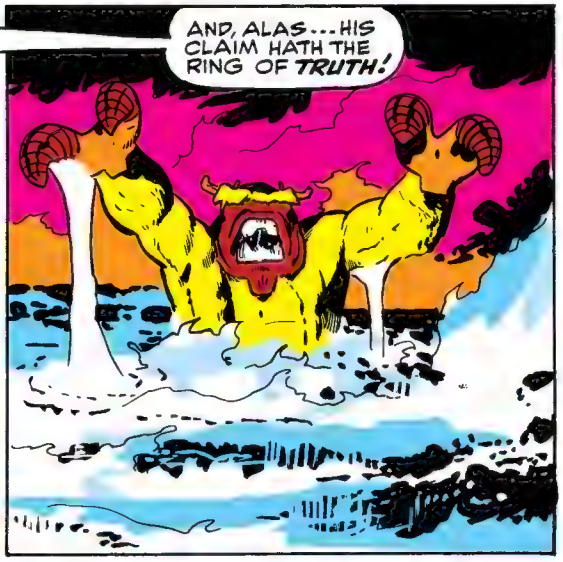

A STRANGER DOTH APPROACH...
THE LIKE OF WHICH MINE EYES HAVE NE'ER BEHELD!
12

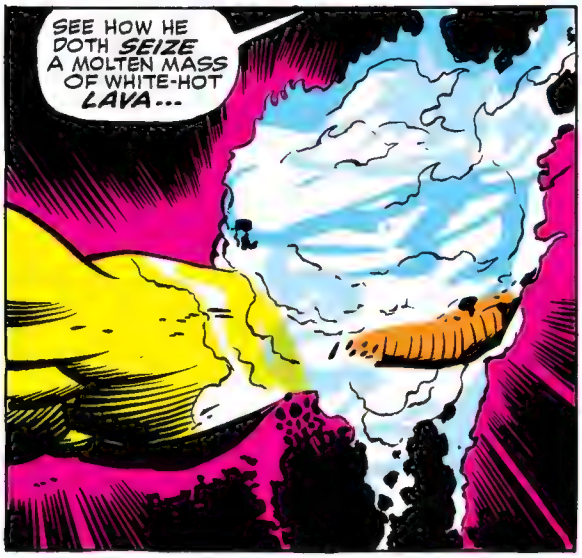

HALT, AND BE THOU RECOGNIZED!
VENT NOT YOUR WRATH UPON MY PERSON!
...OR FACE THE STEEL OF HEIMDALL, HIM WHO GUARDS THE GATES!
FOR, I COME AS FRIEND... FROM A FAR, FAR DISTANT WORLD!
SPEAK, THEN...!
LET THE WORDS OF THY LIPS STAY THE FURY OF MY BLADE!

BEFORE YOU STANDS A PRODUCT OF THE PLANET RIGEL!
I DO OBSERVE! I DO RECORD!
ONE FUNCTION HAVE I--- AND ONE ALONE...
ART THOU THEN THE FAMED RECORDER?
IN LIVING TRUTH---I AM!
I SEEK THE GOD OF THUNDER---WHOM I HAVE KNOWN BEFORE!*
*IN ISH #133, TO BE EXACT! --- SPECIFIC STAN.
THY WORDS RING TRUE! I GRANT THEE TRUST!
WARRIOR...HO! COME THOU TO A HALT!
HOW SPEAKS NOBLE HEIMDALL?
YONDER IS HIM WHOM THE LEGENDS CALL RECORDER!
GUIDE HIM, I PRITHEE, TO THE MIGHTY THOR!
IT SHALL BE DONE!
I WILL LEAD THEE TO THE PALACE ROYAL!
FOR, DIRE PERIL CONFRONTS THE REALM---
AND EVERY SWORD IS SORELY NEEDED!
THOUGH 'TIS WITH HEAVY HEART I DO SO..
WHILST THE SHADOW OF RAGNAROK O'ERHANGS US ALL---
HEIMDALL TENDS HIS POST!
BUT, IF MANGOG BE NOT HALTED...
I FEAR 'TIS ALL ---IN VAIN!
14.


STILL, ANY CAN BATTLE WHEN VICTORY IS NIGH--- BUT ONLY THE GALLANT FIGHT ON--- WHEN THE CAUSE SEEMS HOPELESS! AND, SO IT IS WITH THE FRUIT OF ASGARD---
WE HAVE ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES!
WE COULD DO NO MORE!
BUT, WHAT OF MONSTROUS MANGOG?
MANGOG IS SLAIN, I VOW!
NOT E'EN MAGNIFICENT VOLSTAGG COULD SURVIVE YON VAST INFERNO!

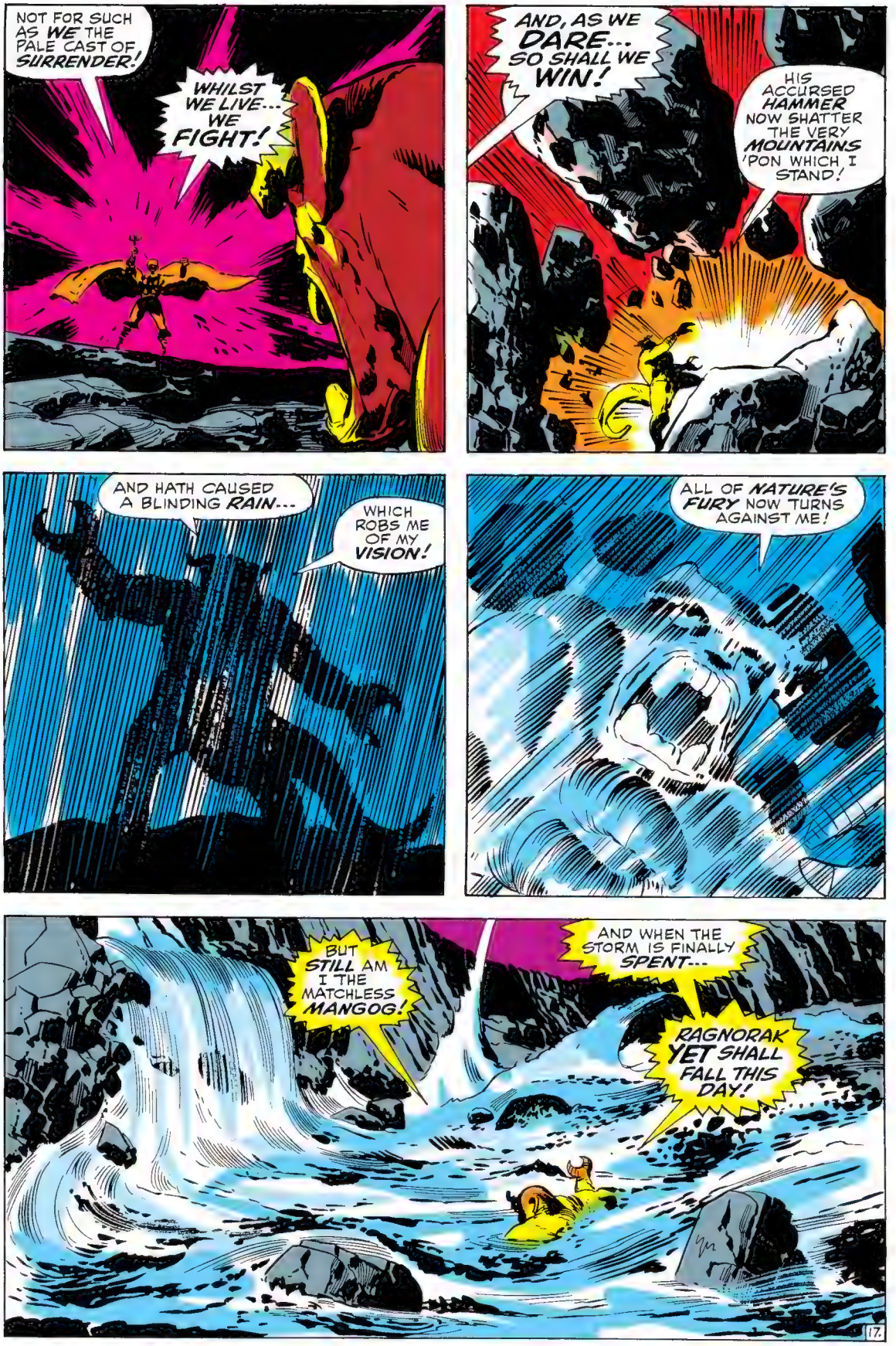
BE THOU SILENT, BLUBBEROUS ONE!
LET US NOW BEHOLD THE FOLLY OF THINE EMPTY WORDS!
THE STRENGTH OF A BILLION BILLION HATH HE CLAIMED...

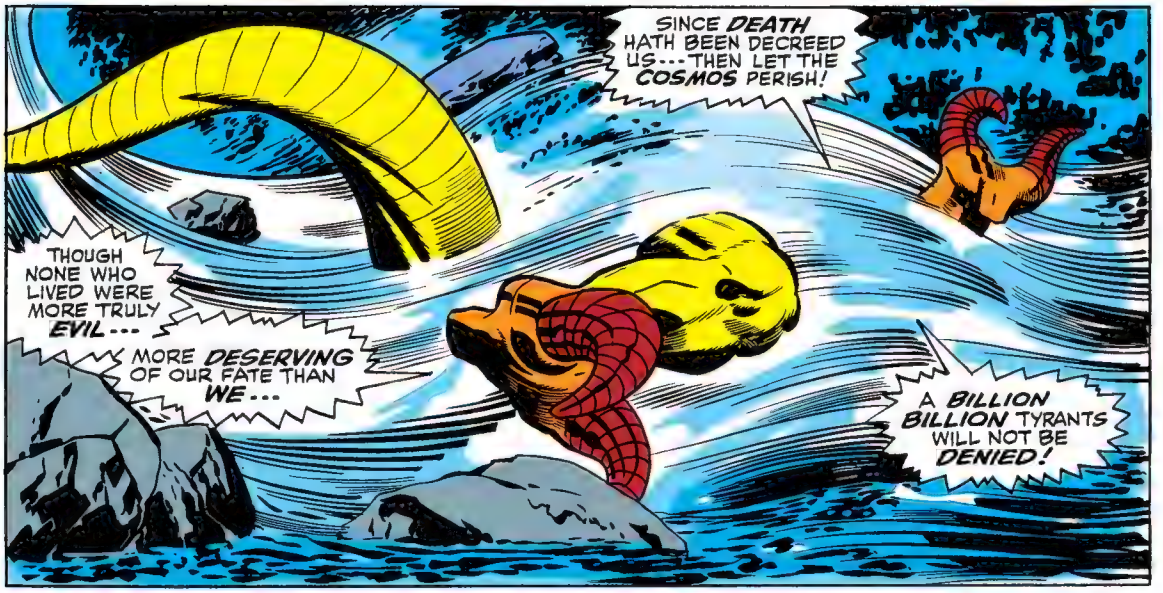

AND, ALAS---HIS CLAIM HATH THE RING OF TRUTH!

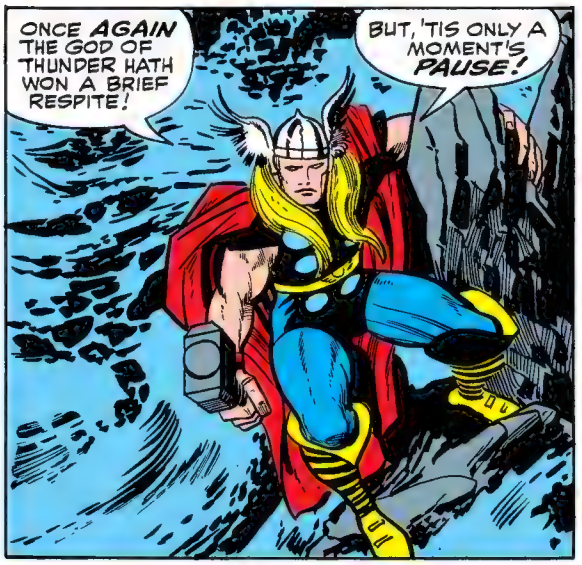

SEE HOW HE DOTH SEIZE A MOLTEN MASS OF WHITE-HOT LAVA---

AND, WITH BARE HAND, HURLS IT LIKE A METEOR TOWARDS WHERE WE STAND!

FZZOOOOM!
IF SUCH BE THE FOE WE FACE...
THEN RAGNORAK IS NOW UPON US!
BY MY TROTH!
IN ALL THE UNIVERSE... NO POWER CAN EQUAL HIS!
COMRADES, TAKE HEART!
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
ARE WE NOT WARRIORS BORN?
ARE WE NOT ASGARDIANS ALL?
ARE WE NOT... AKIN TO GODS?
16

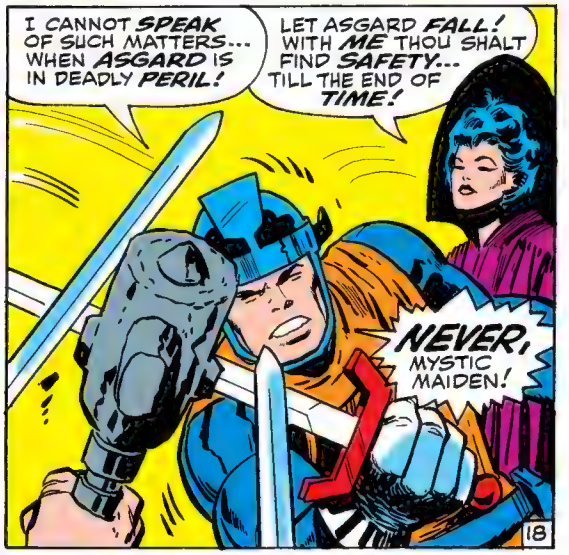

NOT FOR SUCH AS WE THE PALE CAST OF SURRENDER!
WHILST WE LIVE... WE FIGHT!
AND, AS WE DARE... SO SHALL WE WIN!
HIS ACCURSED HAMMER NOW SHATTER THE VERY MOUNTAINS 'PON WHICH I STAND!
AND HATH CAUSED A BLINDING RAIN...
WHICH ROBS ME OF MY VISION!
ALL OF NATURE'S FURY NOW TURNS AGAINST ME!
BUT STILL AM I THE MATCHLESS MANGOG!
AND WHEN THE STORM IS FINALLY SPENT...
RAGNORAK YET SHALL FALL THIS DAY!


SINCE DEATH HATH BEEN DECREED US---THEN LET THE COSMOS PERISH!
THOUGH NONE WHO LIVED WERE MORE TRULY EVIL---
MORE DESERVING OF OUR FATE THAN WE---
A BILLION BILLION TYRANTS WILL NOT BE DENIED!

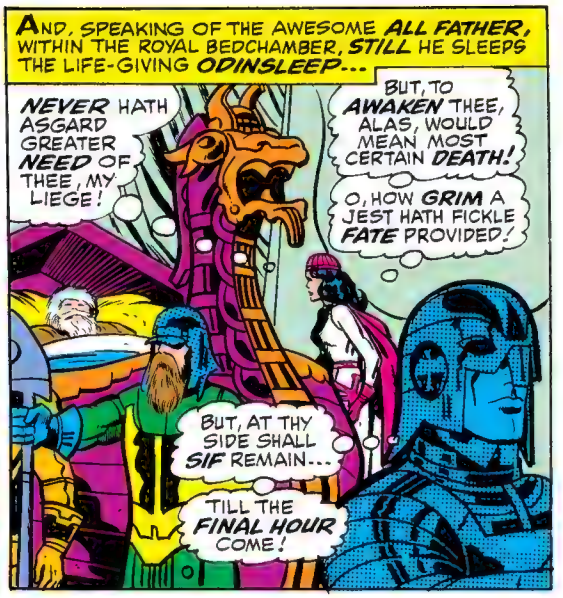

ONCE AGAIN THE GOD OF THUNDER HATH WON A BRIEF RESPITE!
BUT, 'TIS ONLY A MOMENT'S PAUSE!

WHERE, IN ALL THE FABLED REALM---
IS POWER ENOW TO VANQUISH THE UNVANQUISHABLE?
IF IT BE NOT FOUND... THEN WOE TO ALL WHO LIVE!

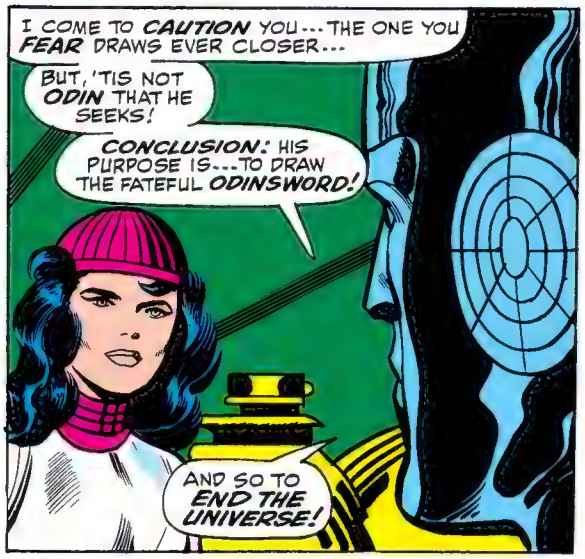
ON SUCH A NOTE OF BLEAK DEPRESSION, PERHAPS 'TIS TIME TO CHANGE OUR SCENE! LET US SEE THEN WHAT BEFALLS IN THE ENCHANTED CAVERNS OF QUEEN KARNILLA...
AM I SO DISTASTEFUL TO THEE, BRAVE BALDER...
THAT THOU WOULDST DO BATTLE UNTO DEATH, WHEN MY THRONE IS THINE TO SHARE, INSTEAD?


I CANNOT SPEAK OF SUCH MATTERS... WHEN ASGARD IS IN DEADLY PERIL!
LET ASGARD FALL! WITH ME THOU SHALT FIND SAFETY... TILL THE END OF TIME!
NEVER, MYSTIC MAIDEN!

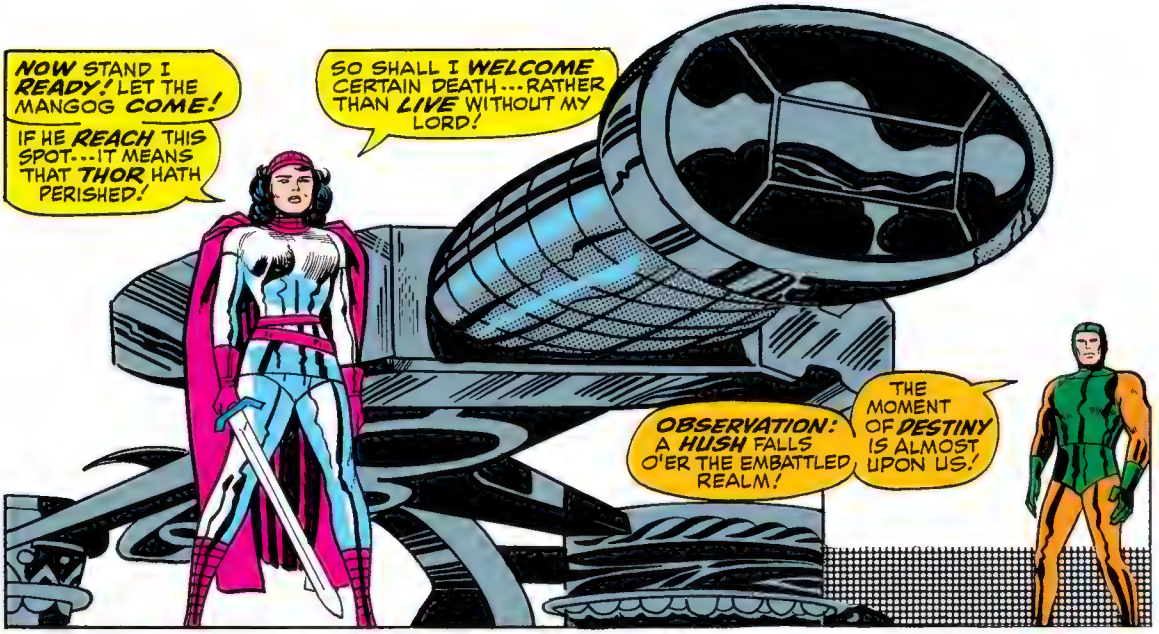
IF ASGARD FALLS, THEN ALL ARE DOOMED!
AND EVEN IF IT WERE NOT SO...
WHAT MATTERS LIFE, IF ITS PRICE BE THE LOSS OF PRIDE, AND HONOR?
SINCE I AM SPURNED ...THEN THOU MUST DIE!
IF SUCH BE ODIN'S WILL...
SO BE IT!

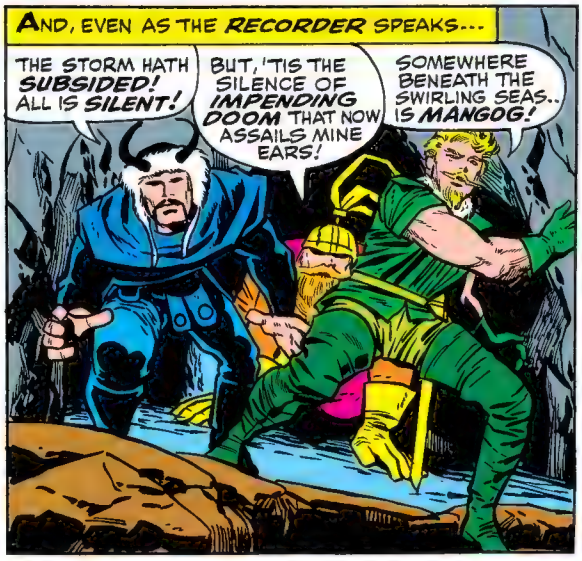

AND, SPEAKING OF THE AWESOME ALL FATHER, WITHIN THE ROYAL BEDCHAMBER, STILL HE SLEEPS THE LIFE-GIVING ODINSLEEP...
NEVER HATH ASGARD GREATER NEED OF THEE, MY LIEGE!
BUT, TO AWAKEN THEE, ALAS, WOULD MEAN MOST CERTAIN DEATH!
O, HOW GRIM A JEST HATH FICKLE FATE PROVIDED!
BUT, AT THY SIDE SHALL SIF REMAIN...
TILL THE FINAL HOUR COME!

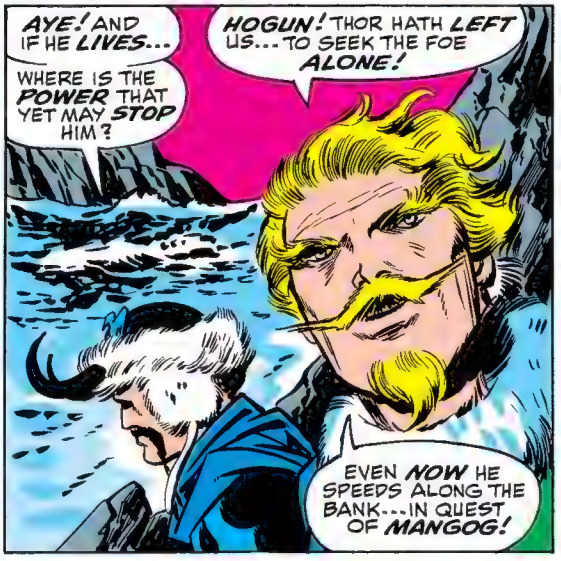
OBSERVATION: YOU ARE FAIREST OF THE FAIR!
CONCLUSION: THUS YOU ARE SIF, THE GODDESS BORN!
BUT, WHO ART THOU... AND WHAT IS THY MISSION?
RECORDER AM I CALLED!
RECORDER!
OFTTIMES HATH MY BELOVED OF THEE SPOKEN...AND EVER WITH TRUE AFFECTION!
HENCE, THOU ART WELCOME... AND SIF SHALL HEAR THY WORDS!


I COME TO CAUTION YOU... THE ONE YOU FEAR DRAWS EVER CLOSER...
BUT, 'TIS NOT ODIN THAT HE SEEKS!
CONCLUSION: HIS PURPOSE IS...TO DRAW THE FATEFUL ODINSWORD!
AND SO TO END THE UNIVERSE!

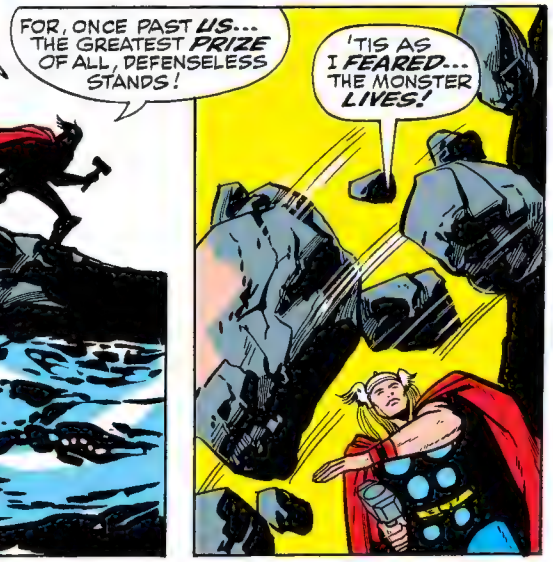
NOW MUST I RECORD THE MOST MOMENTOUS TIME OF ALL--!
SINCE THE MIGHTY THOR IS ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE...
IT SHALL BE SIF WHO GUARDS THE ODINSWORD.. WITH BLADE, AND BLOOD, AND LIFE ITSELF!


NOW STAND I READY! LET THE MANGOG COME!
IF HE REACH THIS SPOT...IT MEANS THAT THOR HATH PERISHED!
SO SHALL I WELCOME CERTAIN DEATH...RATHER THAN LIVE WITHOUT MY LORD!
OBSERVATION: A HUSH FALLS O'ER THE EMBATTLED REALM!
THE MOMENT OF DESTINY IS ALMOST UPON US!


AND, EVEN AS THE RECORDER SPEAKS...
THE STORM HATH SUBSIDED! ALL IS SILENT!
BUT, 'TIS THE SILENCE OF IMPENDING DOOM THAT NOW ASSAILS MINE EARS!
SOMEWHERE BENEATH THE SWIRLING SEAS.. IS MANGOG!


AYE! AND IF HE LIVES...
WHERE IS THE POWER THAT YET MAY STOP HIM?
HOGUN! THOR HATH LEFT US...TO SEEK THE FOE ALONE!
EVEN NOW HE SPEEDS ALONG THE BANK...IN QUEST OF MANGOG!

HERE, IN THIS PLACE, MANGOG MUST BE STOPPED!


FOR, ONCE PAST US... THE GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL, DEFENSELESS STANDS!
'TIS AS I FEARED... THE MONSTER LIVES!

AND NOW MUST COME...
NEXT ...THE ENDING!

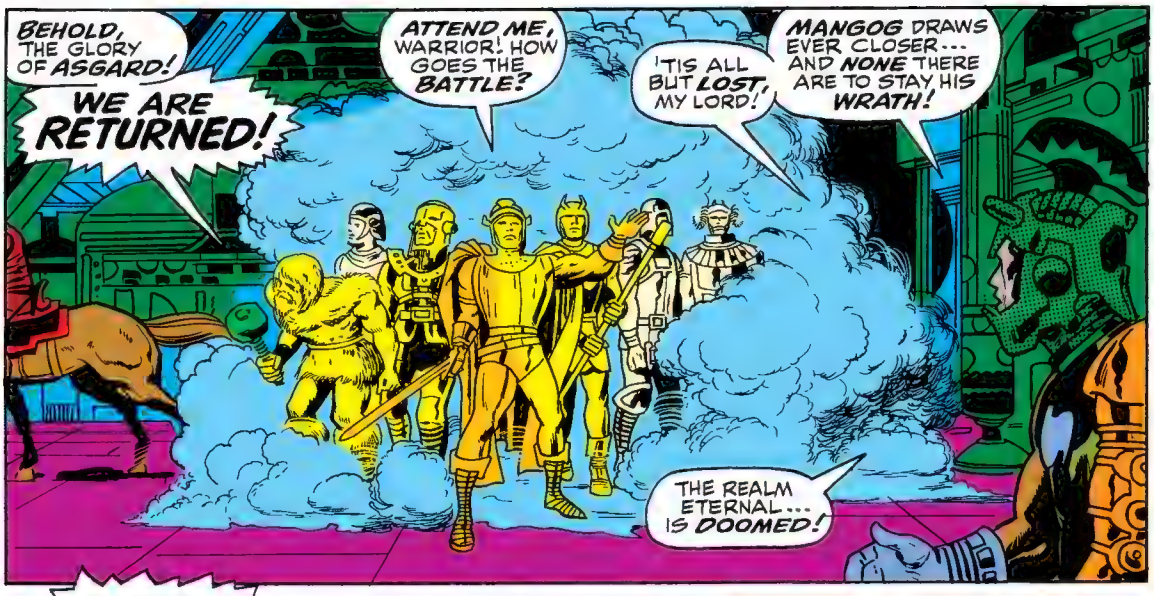
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
157 OCT
BEHIND HIM---
RAGNAROK!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
BEHIND HIM... RAGNAROK!
BEHOLD... THE MONSTROUS MANGOG--- POSSESSED OF THE STRENGTH OF A BILLION BILLION BEINGS! IF HE REACHES ASGARD AND DRAWS THE FATEFUL ODINSWORD, ALL THE LIVING UNIVERSE WILL PERISH!
NONE BUT THOR REMAINS TO STOP THEE...
AND STOP THEE I SHALL---OR I BE NOT SON OF ODIN!
NOW LET'S SEE WHETHER EVEN STAN LEE + JACK KIRBY AIDED BY VINCE COLLETTA and SAM ROSEN CAN GET US OUT OF THIS ONE!

WELL DOES MANGOG KNOW THOR'S HAMMER CAN STOP ANY LIVING BEING---!
BUT NOT MANGOG! FOR MANGOG IS MORE THAN LIVING BEING---!
MANGOG IS THE POWER OF A RACE ENTIRE!!
HE HATH HURLED MY HAMMER BACK---
WITH FORCE AS GREAT AS THAT OF MINE OWN RIGHT ARM!
IF MJOLNIR ITSELF BE POWERLESS AGAINST HIM---
THEN WHERE IS THE WEAPON TO SAVE THE REALM?
STILL DOTH IT FLY--- ALMOST DOWNING MY STALWART COMPANIONS!
TO ME, MIGHTY MJOLNIR! RETURN TO THY MASTER!
NOW, WITH HAMMER IN HAND, I TURN ONCE AGAIN---
-- ONLY TO FIND--- MANGOG IS GONE!
WOE--- WOE UNTO US---IF HE REACH ASGARD BEFORE ME!
2.

BUT, AS IT FREQUENTLY HAPPENS WITH SO LARGE A SUPPORTING CAST, THE GOD OF THUNDER ISN'T THE ONLY ONE IN TROUBLE ---
IF THOU PROFESS TO LOVE ME, MYSTIC MAIDEN... WHY SEEKEST THOU MY DEATH?
THE LOVE OF KARNILLA IS A SELFISH LOVE, BRAVE BALDER!
IF THOU WILT NOT BE MINE... THEN NONE SHALL HAVE THEE!
BUT, TAKE HEART! TIME STILL REMAINS FOR THEE TO BE SPARED!
NEVER! BALDER SHALL NOT LIVE WHILE ASGARD DIES!
THOUGH THOU ART WONDROUS FAIR, MY QUEEN... 'TIS THE BEAUTY OF EVIL THAT WOULDST HAVE ME DESERT MY LIEGE!
THEN THOU HAST SPURNED ME... FOR THE FINAL TIME..!
THUS... MUST BALDER DIE..!
3

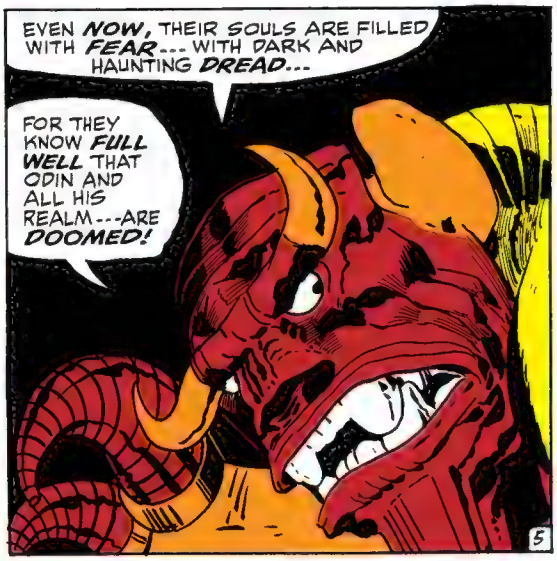
QUEEN OF THE NORNS ...WE SAY THEE NAY!
THE BRAVERY OF BALDER HATH FREED US FROM THY SPELL!
NOW ONCE AGAIN STAND WE UNITED--- ASGARDIANS ALL!
THOU MAYST DESTROY US WITH THINE ENCHANT-MENT... BUT NE'ER AGAIN DO WE LIFT HAND AGAINST OUR BROTHER IN ARMS!
NOT ALL THY WILES... NOR ALL THY SPELLS.. COULD LONG TURN THE FRUIT OF ASGARD ONE 'GAINST THE OTHER!
HOW SAYEST THEE NOW, KARNILLA?
LOOK WELL UPON THY HANDIWORK, SORCERESS! THOU HAST TRULY FAILED!
BE THOU GONE!!
I AM DONE WITH THEE... FORE'ER!
IN ALL THE WORLD--- IN ALL OF TIME--- THERE IS BUT ONE WHOM I HAVE LOVED!
BUT, SO PURE IS HE OF HEART--- SO NOBLE OF SPIRIT... THAT ALL MY NORN ENCHANTMENT COULD NOT WIN HIM!
GO THEN, WARRIOR BOLD... FIGHT WITH THY HOSTS FOR ASGARD...
THE NORN QUEEN HATH FREED THEE! KARNELLA STILL STANDS... ALONE!
4


BEHOLD, THE GLORY OF ASGARD!
WE ARE RETURNED!
ATTEND ME, WARRIOR! HOW GOES THE BATTLE?
'TIS ALL BUT LOST, MY LORD!
MANGOG DRAWS EVER CLOSER... AND NONE THERE ARE TO STAY HIS WRATH!
THE REALM ETERNAL... IS DOOMED!

NOT WHILST AN ASGARDIAN LIVES!
TAKE ARMS, ONE AND ALL!! WE FIGHT TILL WE FALL!

DIRECTLY AHEAD... LIES ASGARD!
NOW, AT LAST, SHALL MANGOG AVENGE A BILLION BILLION DEATHS!

AS EFFORTLESSLY AS I SHATTER YON MOUNTAIN--- SO SHALL I SHATTER THE WORLD ABOUT ME!


EVEN NOW, THEIR SOULS ARE FILLED WITH FEAR--- WITH DARK AND HAUNTING DREAD...
FOR THEY KNOW FULL WELL THAT ODIN AND ALL HIS REALM---ARE DOOMED!

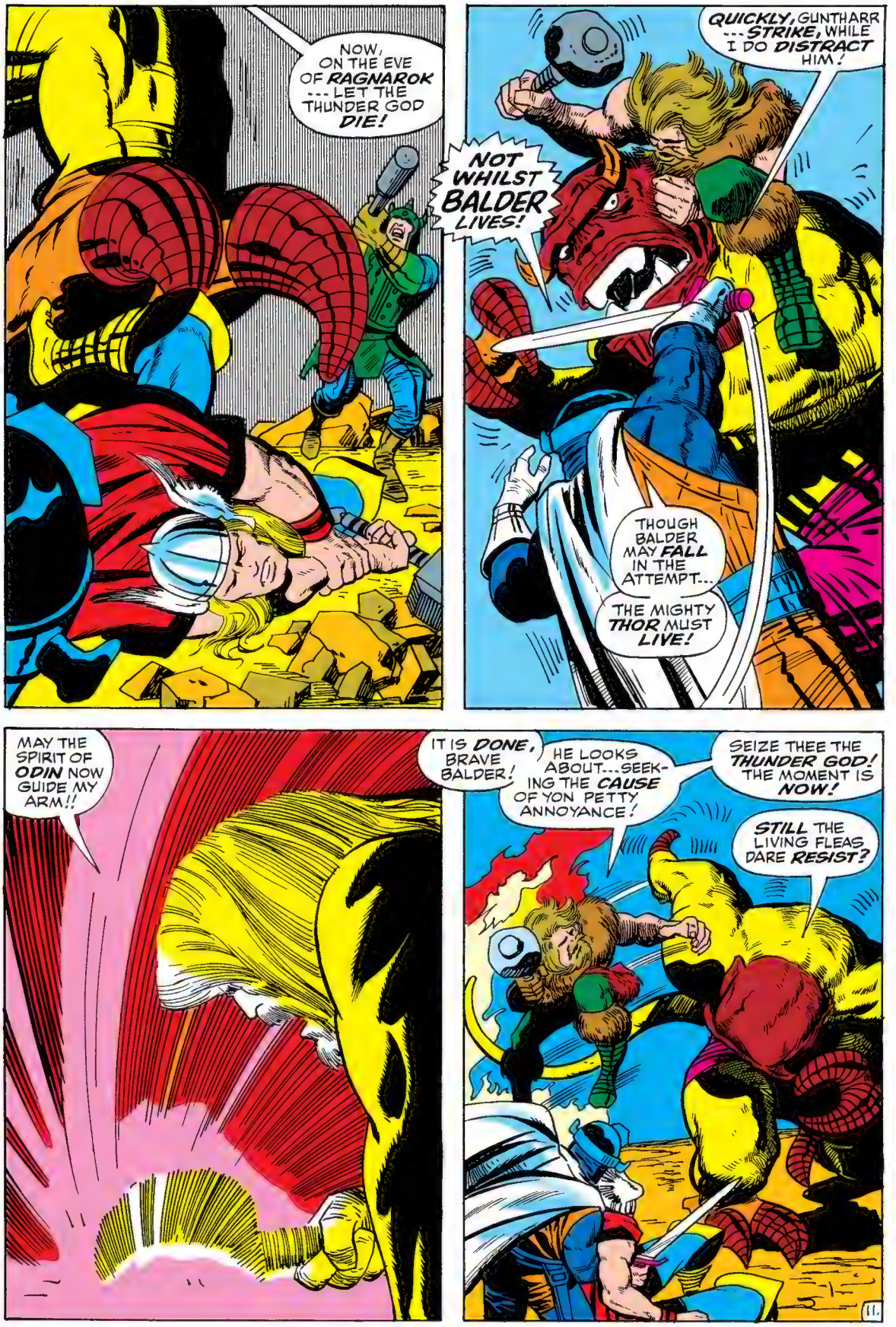
I KNOW NOT... I CARE NOT... WHAT PUNY DEFENSES AWAIT ME!
WHILE THEY PREPARE FOR ME ABOVE GROUND...
MANGOG WILL TUNNEL BELOW!
TO ONE WITH THE POWER OF A BILLION BILLION BEINGS... THE HARDEST ROCK IS NO MORE AN OBSTACLE THAN THE EMPTY AIR ITSELF!
MANGOG HATH OUTDISTANCED US! HE IS ALMOST AT THE GOLDEN GATES!
LIKE UNTO A MONSTROUS MOLE, HE DOTH SPEED BENEATH THE GROUND!
FLY THEN, THUNDER GOD!
NONE BUT THEE CANST CATCH HIM!
AY! BUT THIS TIME THOR MUST FLY ALONE!
I DARE NOT CHECK MY SPEED WITH THINE ADDED WEIGHT!
BUT WE SHALL FOLLOW... CLOSE BEHIND!
HOW FARES THE FIEND, GRIM HOGUN?
HIS ECHO HATH ALMOST DIED AWAY!
THEN I MUST FLY... ...FORTHWITH!!
MAY THE EYES OF ASGARD BE UPON THEE!
6

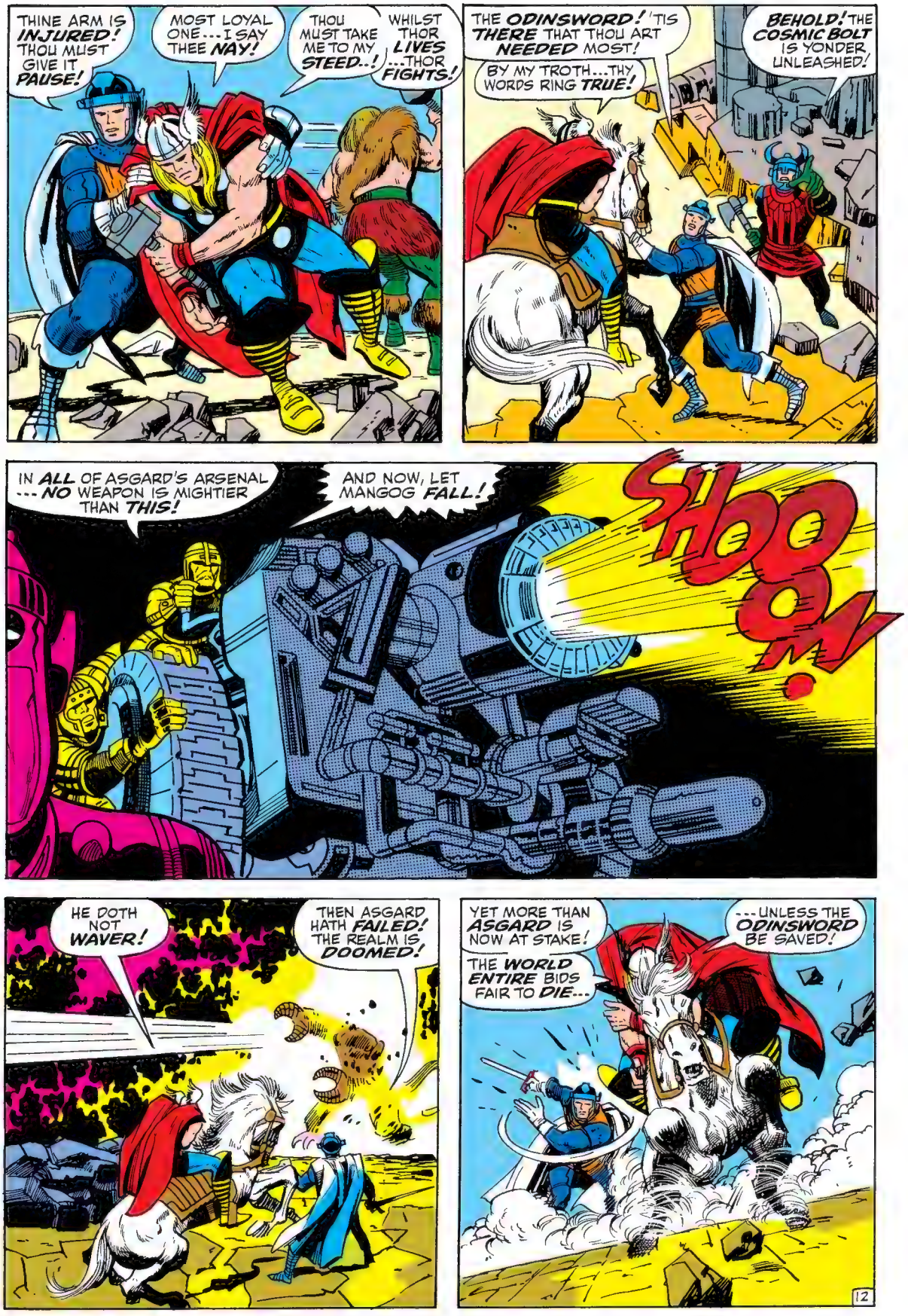
BUT, IT SHALL TAKE FAR MORE THAN ASGARD'S EYES TO SAVE THE FABLED REALM FROM THAT WHICH IS CALLED... MANGOG--!
THE MONSTER HATH REACHED THE INNER CITY!
AT LAST! I AM WITHIN THE GREAT, GOLDEN WALLS!
STAND THY GROUND!
WE DIE FOR ASGARD!
AY! TRULY SHALT THOU DIE FOR ASGARD...
FOR, WHEN MANGOG SHALL BE DONE--LIFE ITSELF SHALL PERISH!
HE LIFTS THE COLUMN OF ETERNAL FLAME AS THOUGH IT BE MERE KINDLING!
SINCE RAGNAROK SHALL BE THY FATE---
I GIVE THEE A FORETASTE... OF WHAT IS YET TO COME...
WITH MINE OWN LIMBS... MINE OWN MATCHLESS STRENGTH...
NOW I DO TO ASGARD...WHAT THE ODINSWORD SHALL DO---TO ALL THE UNIVERSE!
BUR-OOM
THE END HATH COME!
NOW FALLS THE REALM!
RAGNAROK IS UPON US! THIS DAY... WE DIE!
7

BUT SUDDENLY, NEW HOPE SURGES IN THE HEARTS OF ASGARDIANS EVERYWHERE... AS NOBLE BALDER, IN THE VANGUARD OF A BATTALION OF CHARGING REINFORCEMENTS, GALLOPS FEARLESSLY INTO THE FRAY...
FOR ASGAAAARD!
FOR THE REALM ETERNAL!

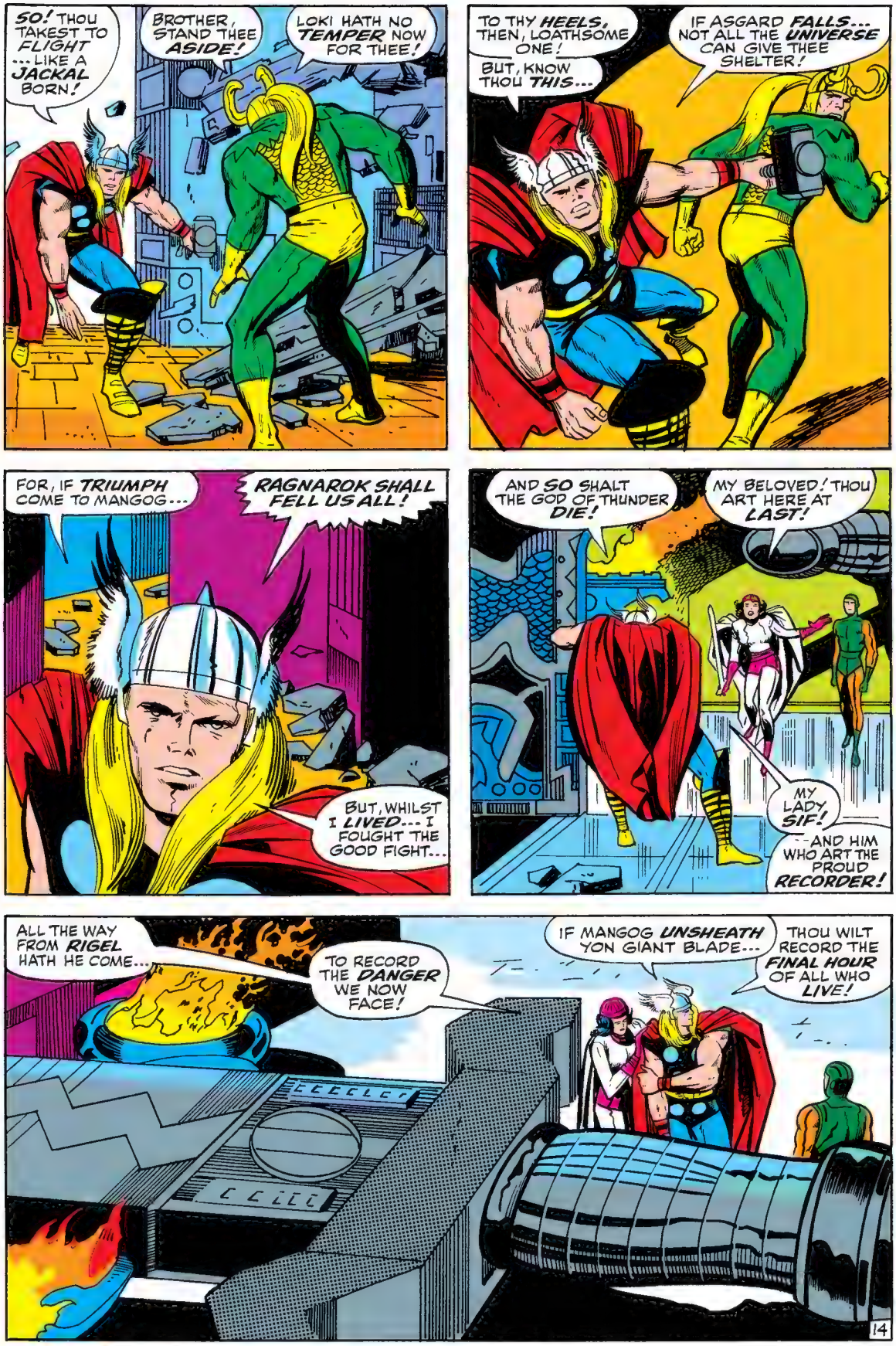
---AND, AGAINST THE THUNDERING HORDE --- ONE DEFIANT FOE---
--POSSESSED OF THE POWER OF A BILLION BILLION BEINGS!!
---A POWER THAT FEW CAN EVEN COMPREHEND---
---AND NONE CAN HOPE TO EQUAL!!
9.

SO IT IS, AT THIS SELF-SAME, FATEFUL SECOND OF ETERNITY---
...THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER HURTLES THRU THE STAR-STREWN SKIES---
HIS MISSION ---TO SAVE THE COSMOS!
STRAIGHT AND TRUE HATH MJOLNIR TRANSPORTED ME---
UPON THE VERY BACK OF HIM I SEEK HATH THOR NOW LANDED!
AND SO--- THE TIME IS COME!
FOR VICTORY--- OR DEATH!
HAVE A CARE, MY PRINCE!
HIS MIGHTY TALON NOW DOTH SEIZE THEE!
NOT A THOUSAND THUNDER GODS COULD STOP ME NOW!
MANGOG SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
10.


NOW, ON THE EVE OF RAGNAROK --- LET THE THUNDER GOD DIE!
QUICKLY, GUNTHARR --- STRIKE, WHILE I DO DISTRACT HIM!
NOT WHILST BALDER LIVES!
THOUGH BALDER MAY FALL IN THE ATTEMPT...
THE MIGHTY THOR MUST LIVE!
MAY THE SPIRIT OF ODIN NOW GUIDE MY ARM!!
IT IS DONE, BRAVE BALDER!
HE LOOKS ABOUT...SEEKING THE CAUSE OF YON PETTY ANNOYANCE!
SEIZE THEE THE THUNDER GOD! THE MOMENT IS NOW!
STILL THE LIVING FLEAS DARE RESIST?
11.

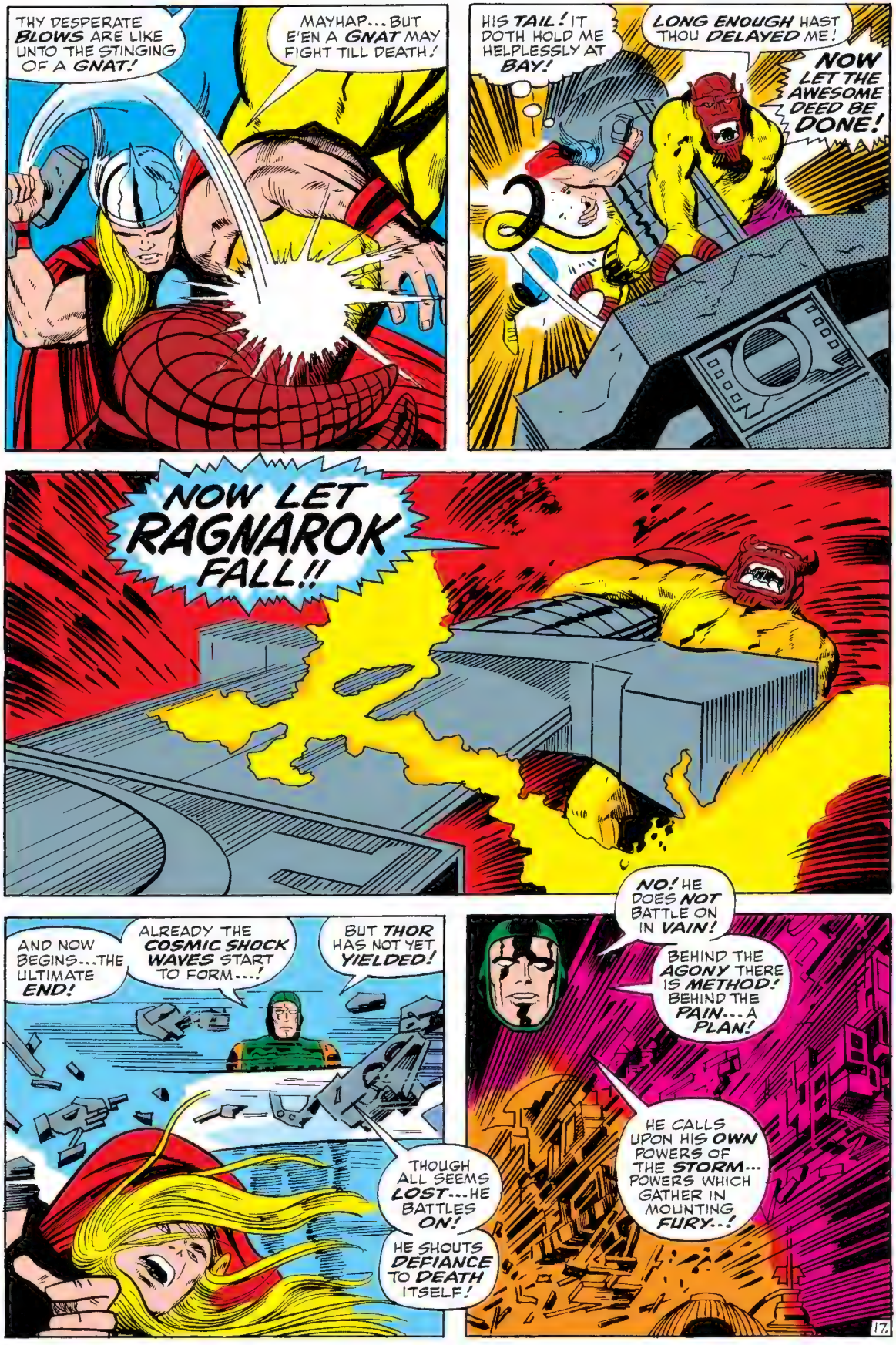

THINE ARM IS INJURED! THOU MUST GIVE IT PAUSE!
MOST LOYAL ONE... I SAY THEE NAY!
THOU MUST TAKE ME TO MY STEED..!
WHILST THOR LIVES ...THOR FIGHTS!
THE ODINSWORD! 'TIS THERE THAT THOU ART NEEDED MOST!
BY MY TROTH... THY WORDS RING TRUE!
BEHOLD! THE COSMIC BOLT IS YONDER, UNLEASHED!
IN ALL OF ASGARD'S ARSENAL --- NO WEAPON IS MIGHTIER THAN THIS!
AND NOW, LET MANGOG FALL!
SHOO-OW!
HE DOTH NOT WAVER!
THEN ASGARD HATH FAILED! THE REALM IS DOOMED!
YET MORE THAN ASGARD IS NOW AT STAKE!
THE WORLD ENTIRE BIDS FAIR TO DIE...
...UNLESS THE ODINSWORD BE SAVED!
12

NOW TO THE ROYAL CHAMBER!
'TIS THERE THE FINAL STAND BE MADE!
AND, WITHIN THE PALACE ROYAL...
THOUGH THEY FOUGHT WITH VALOR... OUR LEGIONS HAVE BEEN BESTED!
MANGOG STILL DRAWS CLOSER..!
THOU SHOULDST HAVE HEEDED THE WARNING OF THINE ORACLE!
THE CAUSE IS LOST! WE ARE UN-DONE!
BE THOU SILENT, SERVITOR!
FAILURE IS NOT FOR LOKI!
THOUGH WORLDS MAY DIE... THE PRINCE OF EVIL SHALL E'ER SURVIVE!
I'LL WAKEN ODIN! THE ALL-FATHER WILL SAVE US!
HE WILL NOT LET HIS PEOPLE PERISH!
NAY! HE SLEEPS THE SLEEP OF LIFE!
NONE MAY END HIS ROYAL SLUMBER... SAVE HE HIMSELF!
THEN ALL THAT REMAINS IS FLIGHT!
HOLD, MY LORD! THOU ART SOVEREIGN NOW! WHAT OF THY HAPLESS SUBJECTS?
WHAT CARE I FOR THEM?
LOKI ALONE MUST LIVE!
13

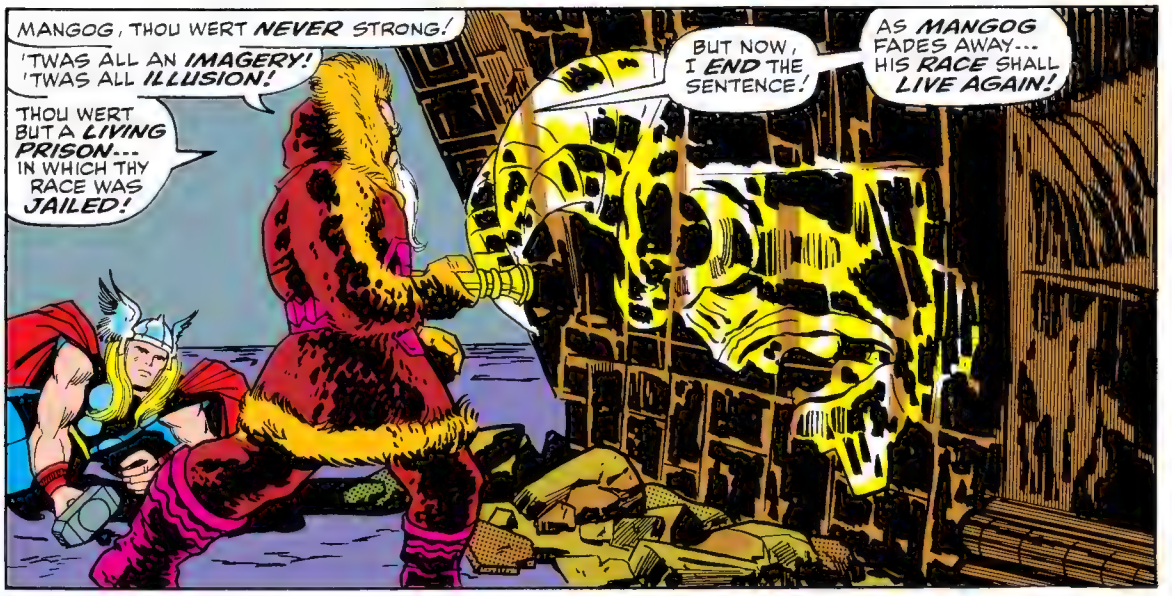

SO! THOU TAKEST TO FLIGHT ...LIKE A JACKAL BORN!
BROTHER, STAND THEE ASIDE!
LOKI HATH NO TEMPER NOW FOR THEE!
TO THY HEELS, THEN, LOATHSOME ONE!
BUT, KNOW THOU THIS...
IF ASGARD FALLS... NOT ALL THE UNIVERSE CAN GIVE THEE SHELTER!
FOR, IF TRIUMPH COME TO MANGOG...
RAGNAROK SHALL FELL US ALL!
BUT, WHILST I LIVED... I FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT...
AND SO SHALT THE GOD OF THUNDER DIE!
MY BELOVED! THOU ART HERE AT LAST!
MY LADY SIF!
--AND HIM WHO ART THE PROUD RECORDER!
ALL THE WAY FROM RIGEL HATH HE COME...
TO RECORD THE DANGER WE NOW FACE!
IF MANGOG UNSHEATH YON GIANT BLADE...
THOU WILT RECORD THE FINAL HOUR OF ALL WHO LIVE!

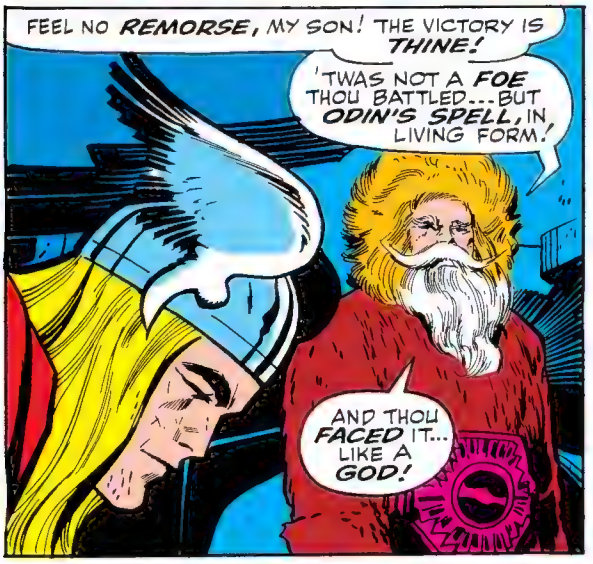
OBSERVATION! MY SENSORY REGISTERS INFORM ME THAT MANGOG HAS PENETRATED THE CASTLE DEFENSES!
THEN THE MOMENT IS UPON US! 'TIS HERE WE FIGHT,/ 'TIS HERE WE STAND! AND, IF DESTINY DOTH SO DECREE...
'TIS HERE WE PERISH ALL!
THE VERY WALLS BEGIN TO CRUMBLE! ART THOU FRIGHTENED, MOST FAIR SIF?
WHILST I STAND WITH THEE, MY LORD?
NAY... WHATE'ER BEFALLS, MY HEART IS CALM... AND EVER THINE!
THE ODINSWORD! I SEE IT AT LAST!
BEHIND ME, MY LADY!
NEVER, MY LORD! AT THY SIDE STANDS SIF!
WE ARE ONE SWORD... ONE MIND... ONE CAUSE... ONE FATE...
FOR NOW ... AND ALWAYS!
15.

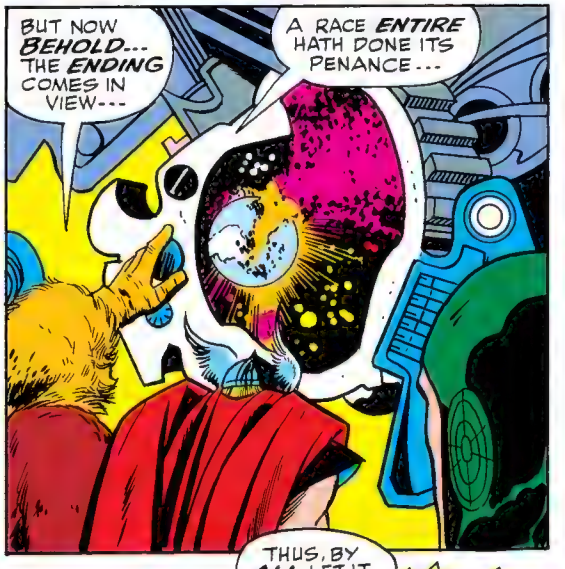
AWAY, PUNY ONES!
CANST THOU HOPE TO STOP THE POWER OF A BILLION, BILLION BEINGS??
AND NOW... THE REVENGE SUPREME...
WITH BUT ONE LAST BLOW...
I CRUSH THEE ALL!!
RRROK!
THE SWORD!... HE MUST NOT REACH... THE SWORD!
BUT... WHO IS THERE...
...TO STOP HIM...?
THERE IS STILL... THE SON OF ...ODIN...!
STAND THEE BACK... O, BESTIAL ONE!
THE END IS NOT YET NIGH...!
16

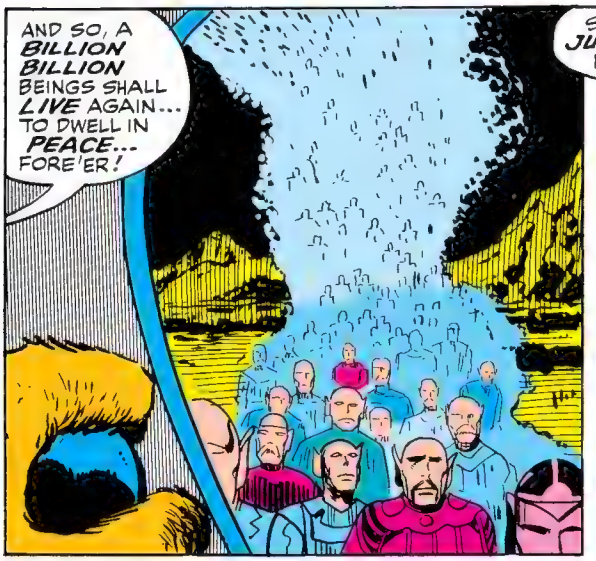

THY DESPERATE BLOWS ARE LIKE UNTO THE STINGING OF A GNAT!
MAYHAP... BUT E'EN A GNAT MAY FIGHT TILL DEATH!
HIS TAIL! IT DOTH HOLD ME HELPLESSLY AT BAY!
LONG ENOUGH HAST THOU DELAYED ME!
NOW LET THE AWESOME DEED BE DONE!
NOW LET RAGNAROK FALL!!
AND NOW BEGINS... THE ULTIMATE END!
ALREADY THE COSMIC SHOCK WAVES START TO FORM...!
BUT THOR HAS NOT YET YIELDED!
THOUGH ALL SEEMS LOST... HE BATTLES ON!
HE SHOUTS DEFIANCE TO DEATH ITSELF!
NO! HE DOES NOT BATTLE ON IN VAIN!
BEHIND THE AGONY THERE IS METHOD! BEHIND THE PAIN... A PLAN!
HE CALLS UPON HIS OWN POWERS OF THE STORM... POWERS WHICH GATHER IN MOUNTING FURY..!

HIS PURPOSE NOW IS CLEAR!
ONLY THE OMNIPOTENT POWER OF ODIN--- MERGED WITH THAT OF THE THUNDER GOD... MAY YET HALT RAGNAROK!
AND, ONLY A STORM SUCH AS THIS--- WHICH THOR HAS CREATED ---CAN CAUSE THE LORD OF ASGARD TO SAFELY AWAKEN FROM THE FATEFUL ODINSLEEP!
RECORDER! THOU SPEAKEST TRUE!
NOW FROM HIS SLEEP HATH THE ALL-FATHER WOKE!
NOW HERE STANDS ODIN ...POWER SCEPTER IN HAND!
MANGOG! I BID THEE... HALT!
A RAY OF POWER STRIKES ME!
MY LIMBS ARE FROZE! I CANNOT MOVE!
NOW HEAR THE WORDS OF ODIN--!
AGES AGO, IN MY WISDOM SUPREME, I DIDST PUT THY RACE ENTIRE BENEATH AN ODINSPELL!
AND NOW, BY DECREE IMPERIAL--- I BREAK THY SPELL!
A MASS OF ENERGY RISING FROM ME.. AS I GROW WEAKER... WEAKER...!
18

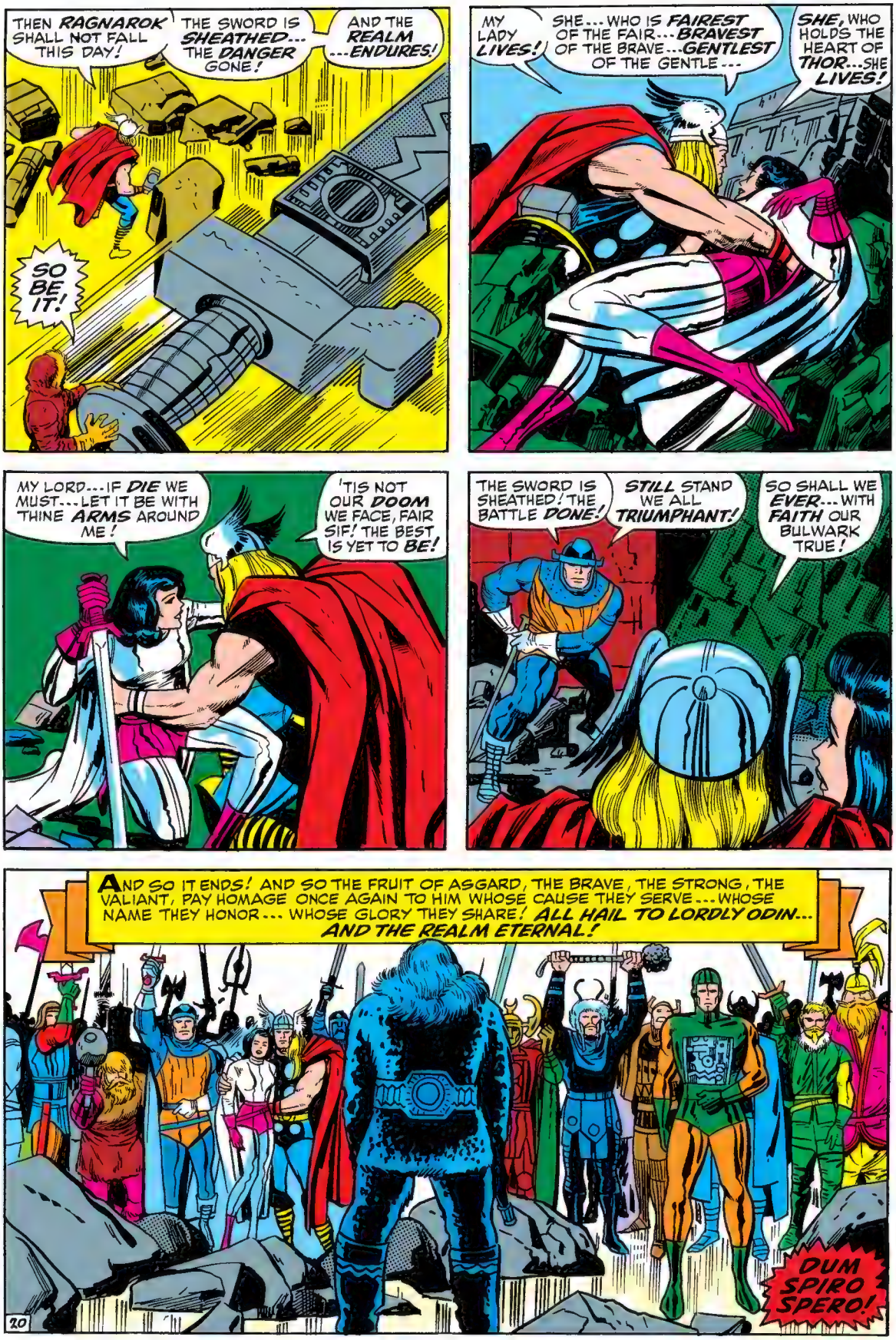

MANGOG, THOU WERT NEVER STRONG!
'TWAS ALL AN IMAGERY! 'TWAS ALL ILLUSION!
THOU WERT BUT A LIVING PRISON--- IN WHICH THY RACE WAS JAILED!
BUT NOW, I END THE SENTENCE!
AS MANGOG FADES AWAY--- HIS RACE SHALL LIVE AGAIN!


FEEL NO REMORSE, MY SON! THE VICTORY IS THINE!
'TWAS NOT A FOE THOU BATTLED--- BUT ODIN'S SPELL, IN LIVING FORM!
AND THOU FACED IT... LIKE A GOD!


BUT NOW BEHOLD--- THE ENDING COMES IN VIEW---
A RACE ENTIRE HATH DONE ITS PENANCE---


AND SO, A BILLION BILLION BEINGS SHALL LIVE AGAIN... TO DWELL IN PEACE... FORE'ER!

SUCH IS ODIN'S JUDGEMENT! SUCH IS ODIN'S WILL!
THUS, BY ALL LET IT BE KNOWN...
I HAVE SPOKEN!!

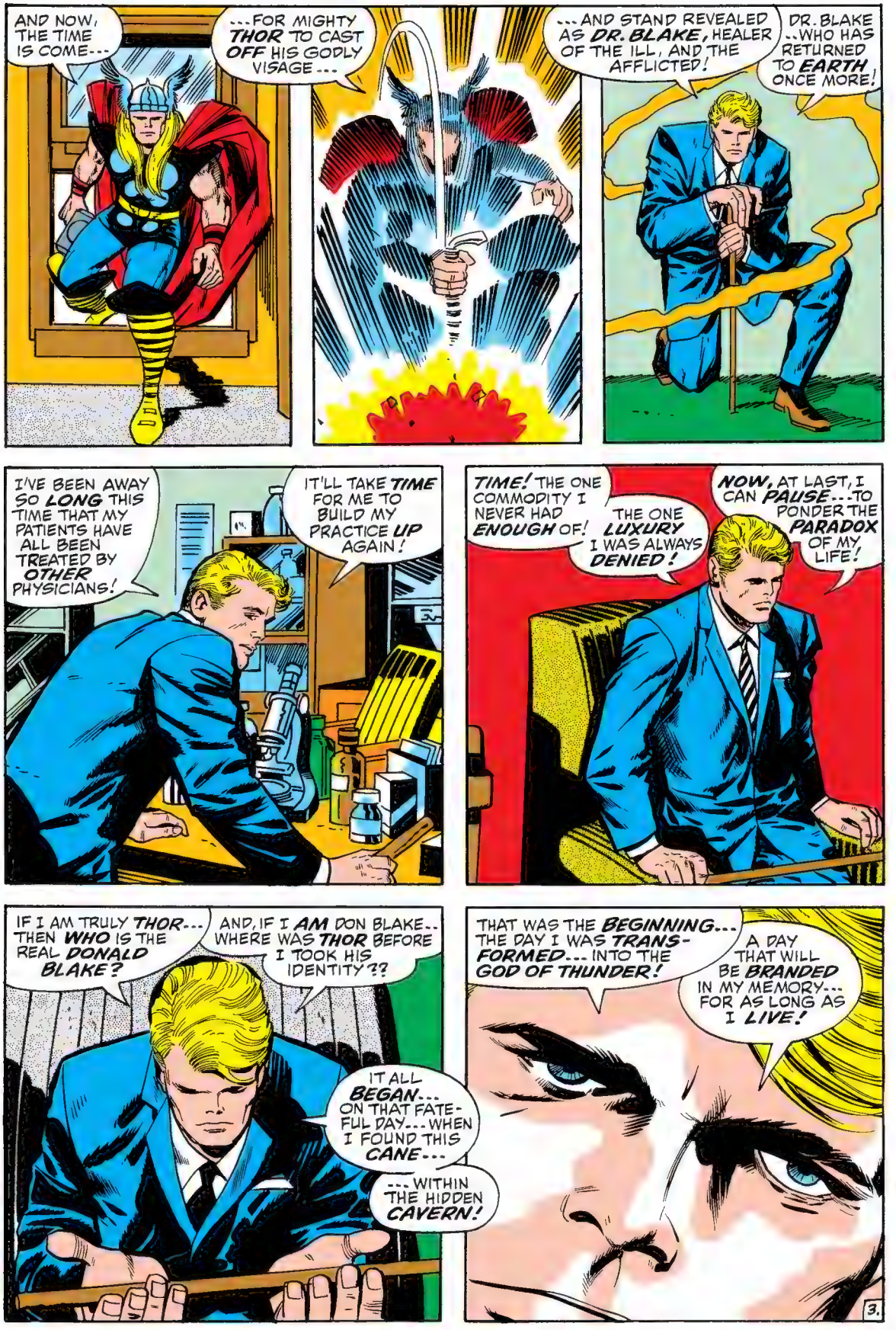

THEN RAGNAROK SHALL NOT FALL THIS DAY!
THE SWORD IS SHEATHED... THE DANGER GONE!
AND THE REALM ...ENDURES!
SO BE IT!
MY LADY LIVES!
SHE... WHO IS FAIREST OF THE FAIR... BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE... GENTLEST OF THE GENTLE...
SHE, WHO HOLDS THE HEART OF THOR... SHE LIVES!
MY LORD... IF DIE WE MUST... LET IT BE WITH THINE ARMS AROUND ME!
'TIS NOT OUR DOOM WE FACE, FAIR SIF! THE BEST IS YET TO BE!
THE SWORD IS SHEATHED! THE BATTLE DONE!
STILL STAND WE ALL TRIUMPHANT!
SO SHALL WE EVER... WITH FAITH OUR BULWARK TRUE!
AND SO IT ENDS! AND SO THE FRUIT OF ASGARD, THE BRAVE, THE STRONG, THE VALIANT, PAY HOMAGE ONCE AGAIN TO HIM WHOSE CAUSE THEY SERVE... WHOSE NAME THEY HONOR... WHOSE GLORY THEY SHARE! ALL HAIL TO LORDLY ODIN... AND THE REALM ETERNAL!
DUM SPIRO SPERO!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
158 NOV

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

THE WAY IT WAS!
AT LAST! THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE SON OF ODIN TO RETURN TO THE FATEFUL PLANET EARTH!
PANDEMONIOUSLY PRODUCED BY
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
VINCE COLLETTA, EMBELLISHER
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER
I. FORBUSH HERALDRY

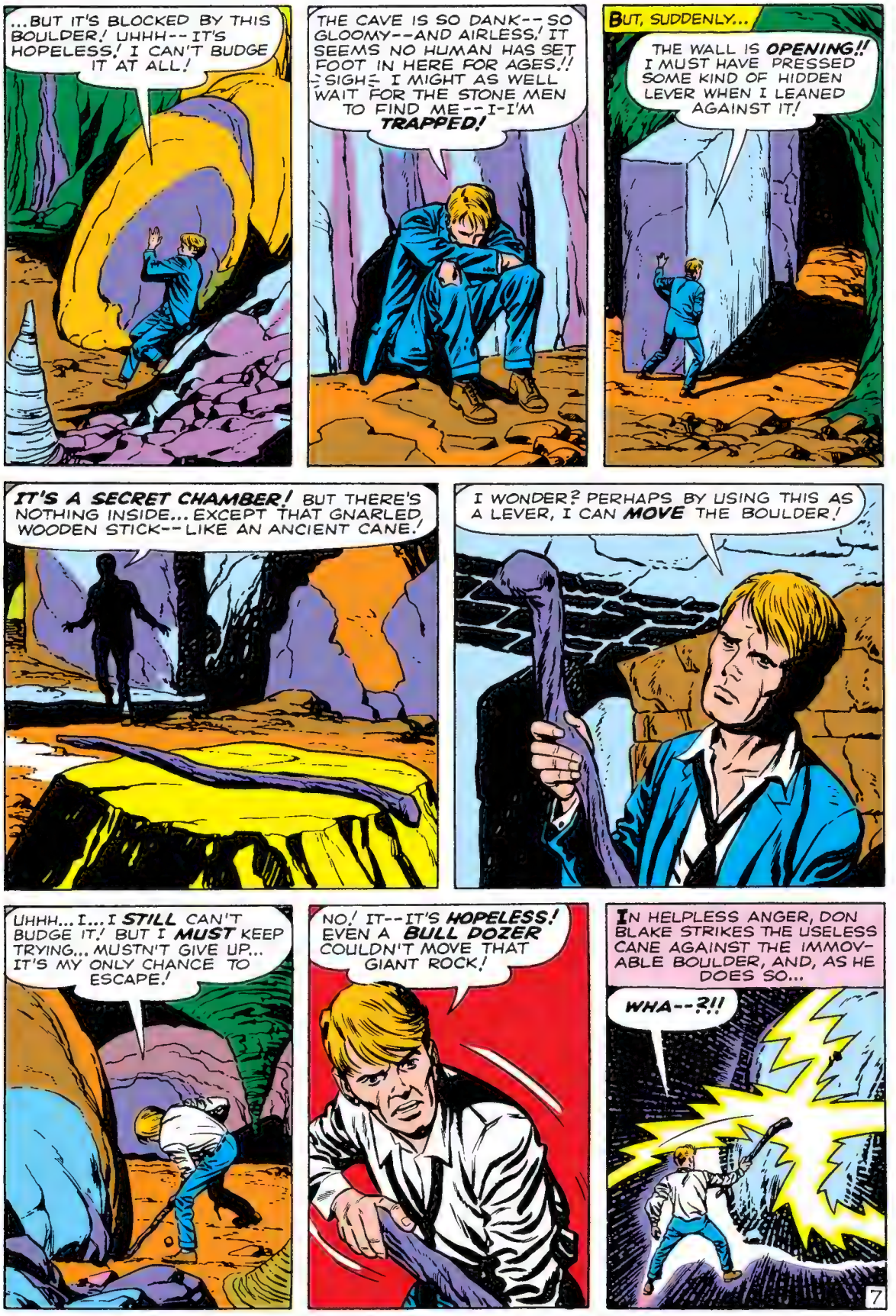
THIS IS THE WORLD I AM PLEDGED TO PROTECT!
AND HERE, IN THIS BUILDING...
I MUST TAKE UP ONCE AGAIN THE LIFE OF DR. DONALD BLAKE!
THOK!
I MUST DIVEST MYSELF OF GODLY FORM ...OF GODLY PREROGATIVE...
AND WALK THE LAND I LOVE AS A MORTAL AMONGST MY FELLOW MORTALS!
MEN! HOW FRAIL AND FRAGILE IS THEIR LIVES!
AND YET, HOW TINGED WITH GRANDEUR THEIR DREAMS, THEIR DESTINY!
MEN! IN THEIR VERY WEAKNESS THERE IS STRENGTH... AND IN THEIR COURAGE...UN-DYING GLORY!
EVEN A GOD MAY ENVY THEIR DREAMS...
BUT ONLY A MORTAL CAN KNOW THE PRIDE ...THE POWER... AND THE ENDLESS PAIN!
2.

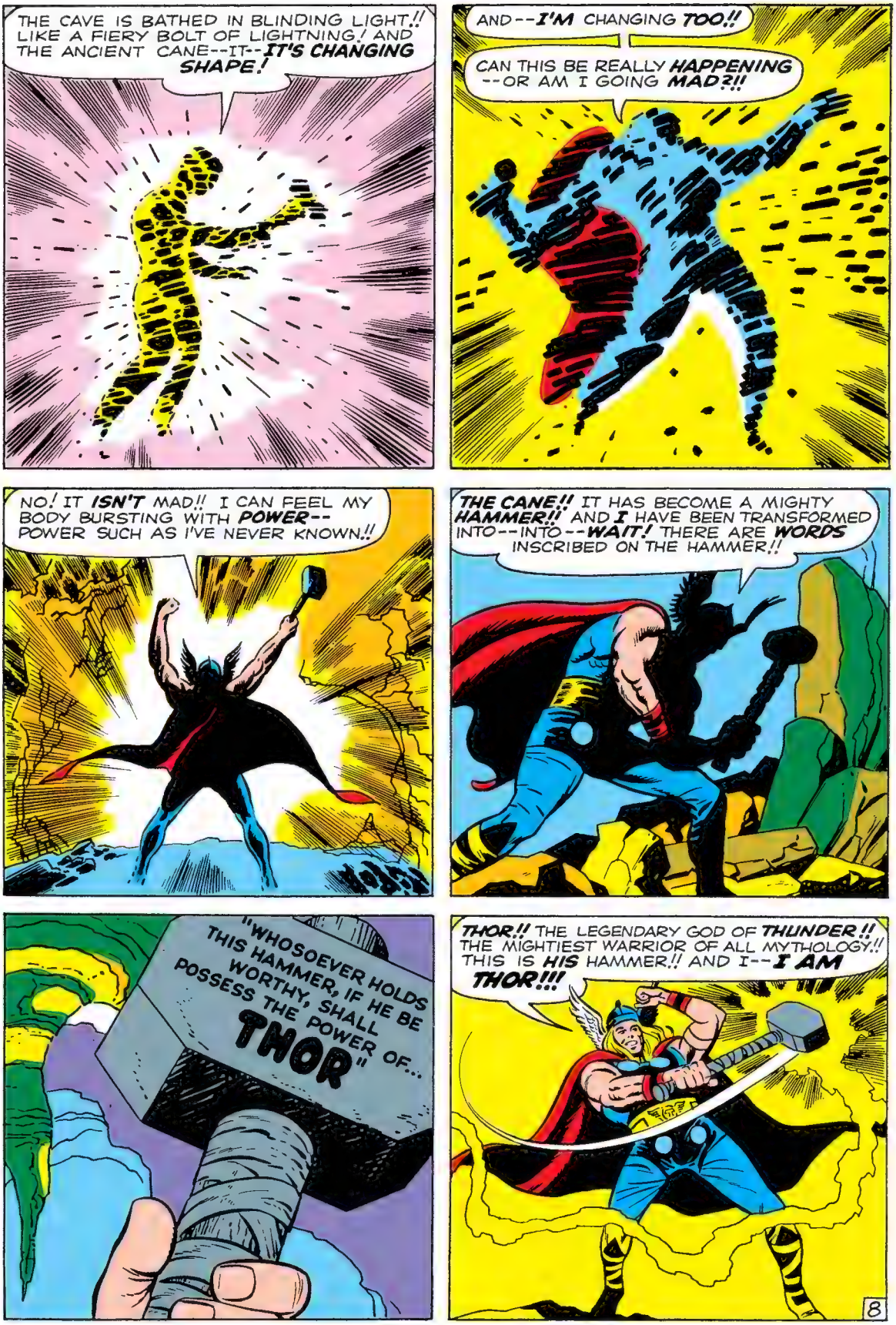

AND NOW, THE TIME IS COME...
...FOR MIGHTY THOR TO CAST OFF HIS GODLY VISAGE...
...AND STAND REVEALED AS DR. BLAKE, HEALER OF THE ILL, AND THE AFFLICTED!
DR. BLAKE ..WHO HAS RETURNED TO EARTH ONCE MORE!
I'VE BEEN AWAY SO LONG THIS TIME THAT MY PATIENTS HAVE ALL BEEN TREATED BY OTHER PHYSICIANS!
IT'LL TAKE TIME FOR ME TO BUILD MY PRACTICE UP AGAIN!
TIME! THE ONE COMMODITY I NEVER HAD ENOUGH OF!
THE ONE LUXURY I WAS ALWAYS DENIED!
NOW, AT LAST, I CAN PAUSE...TO PONDER THE PARADOX OF MY LIFE!
IF I AM TRULY THOR... THEN WHO IS THE REAL DONALD BLAKE?
AND, IF I AM DON BLAKE.. WHERE WAS THOR BEFORE I TOOK HIS IDENTITY??
IT ALL BEGAN... ON THAT FATE-FUL DAY... WHEN I FOUND THIS CANE...
...WITHIN THE HIDDEN CAVERN!
THAT WAS THE BEGINNING... THE DAY I WAS TRANS-FORMED... INTO THE GOD OF THUNDER!
A DAY THAT WILL BE BRANDED IN MY MEMORY... FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE!
3.

EDITORIAL NOTE:
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING TOTAL AUTHENTICITY, THE FOLLOWING FLASHBACK PAGES ARE REPRINTED IN EXACT DETAIL FROM THE ORIGINAL ORIGIN OF THOR, AS FIRST PRESENTED IN AUG. '62... AND REQUESTED BY MARVELDOM ASSEMBLED EVER SINCE!
I CAN STILL REMEMBER EVERY MOMENTOUS DETAIL AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY!
I WAS YOUNGER THEN... WEAKER... FAR MORE FRAIL! EVEN MY INJURED LEG HADN'T YET BEGUN ITS SLOW HEALING PROCESS...
BUT, HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN... HOW COULD I HAVE SUSPECTED... THE SEEMING MIRACLE THAT AWAITED ME..?
OUR STORY OPENS ON THE WINDY COAST OF NORWAY, WHERE WE SEE A FRAIL FIGURE SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE BLEAK SKY! HE IS DR. DON BLAKE, AN AMERICAN VACATIONING IN EUROPE!
AND, AS DOCTOR BLAKE TURNS AND LEAVES THE SITE, HE DOESN'T SEE THE STRANGE ALIEN SPACESHIP WHICH SILENTLY LANDS BEHIND HIM!
4

TWO PRINCIPALS IN A GRIM PAGEANT ... NEITHER ONE NOTICING THE OTHER! BUT HOW DIFFERENT WOULD THINGS BE IF THEY WERE TO MEET AT THIS MOMENT! HOW DIFFERENT WOULD BE THE FUTURE OF ALL MANKIND!
BUT OURS IS A DRAMA DECREED BY THE FATES TO BE ACTED OUT! NOTHING CAN STOP IT! NOTHING CAN CHANGE IT! WATCH AND SEE...
AH! AT LAST WE ARE ON EARTH!
THIS ATMOSPHERE--IT IS SO DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN PLANET!
THAT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE! ON SATURN, WE ARE MIGHTY BEINGS! BUT HERE, IN THIS OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE, OUR STRENGTH IS EVEN GREATER!
BEHOLD HOW EASILY I LIFT THIS PLANT-THING OUT OF THE GROUND!
HAH! WELL DONE, GORR!
NOW WATCH, AS I PROVE THE INVULNERABILITY OF OUR STONE BODIES!
WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION, I JUMP...
...FOR I KNOW THAT NOTHING ON THIS PUNY EARTH...
...CAN HARM ME!
BUT, ONE PAIR OF EYES DOES SEE THE AWESOME ALIENS! THE EYES OF AN AGED FISHERMAN!
BY THE BEARD OF ODIN, WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED ONTO?!!
AND IF OUR STRENGTH WERE NOT ENOUGH, WE COULD RELY UPON OUR WEAPONS!
IT WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY TO CONQUER THIS PLANET WHEN OUR MAIN INVASION FORCE ARRIVES!
5

I MUST RUN TO THE VILLAGE AND SOUND THE ALARM!!
BUT, WHEN THE OLD FISHERMAN TELLS HIS STORY...
STONE CREATURES FROM OUTER SPACE? WHAT NONSENSE DO YOU SPEAK?!!
BEGONE, OLD MAN! DO NOT WASTE OUR TIME WITH FAIRY TALES!
IT SOUNDS FANTASTIC! AND YET, THE MAN DOESN'T APPEAR MAD! I WONDER...?
THE FOLLOWING DAY, DR. DON BLAKE DECIDES TO EXPLORE THE COASTAL AREA DESCRIBED BY THE FISHERMAN...
SO FAR I'VE SEEN NO SIGN--WAIT--WHAT'S THIS? FOOTPRINTS!! THEY LEAD AROUND THE BEND!
IT'S THEM--THE ALIENS!! THEY'RE JUST AS HE SAID THEY WERE-- MEN OF STONE!
REMEMBER... DEATH TO ANY WHO DISCOVER OUR PRESENCE!
IF THEY FIND ME HERE, THEY'LL KILL ME! I'D BETTER LEAVE WHILE--BLAST IT, I STEPPED ON A TWIG!
LO! AN EARTHLING! HE HAS SEEN US!!
AFTER HIM! DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!
SNAP!
I--I CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH! THEY'LL SOON CATCH UP TO ME!
OOH!! I TRIPPED...
I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT MY CANE--WAIT! PERHAPS I CAN HIDE IN THOSE CAVES--
MADE IT! BUT THEY'RE BOUND TO FIND ME SOON! IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY OUT--!
BACK THERE! THERE IS ANOTHER EXIT!
6


...BUT IT'S BLOCKED BY THIS BOULDER! UHHH--IT'S HOPELESS! I CAN'T BUDGE IT AT ALL!
THE CAVE IS SO DANK--SO GLOOMY--AND AIRLESS! IT SEEMS NO HUMAN HAS SET FOOT IN HERE FOR AGES!! -SIGH- I MIGHT AS WELL WAIT FOR THE STONE MEN TO FIND ME--I-I'M TRAPPED!
BUT, SUDDENLY...
THE WALL IS OPENING!! I MUST HAVE PRESSED SOME KIND OF HIDDEN LEVER WHEN I LEANED AGAINST IT!
IT'S A SECRET CHAMBER! BUT THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE... EXCEPT THAT GNARLED, WOODEN STICK--LIKE AN ANCIENT CANE!
I WONDER? PERHAPS BY USING THIS AS A LEVER, I CAN MOVE THE BOULDER!
UHHH... I... I STILL CAN'T BUDGE IT! BUT I MUST KEEP TRYING... MUSTN'T GIVE UP... IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
NO! IT--IT'S HOPELESS! EVEN A BULL DOZER COULDN'T MOVE THAT GIANT ROCK!
IN HELPLESS ANGER, DON BLAKE STRIKES THE USELESS CANE AGAINST THE IMMOVABLE BOULDER, AND, AS HE DOES SO...
WHA--?!!
7

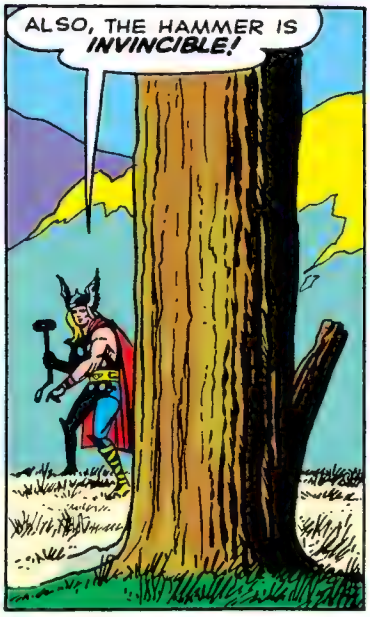

THE CAVE IS BATHED IN BLINDING LIGHT!! LIKE A FIERY BOLT OF LIGHTNING! AND THE ANCIENT CANE--IT--IT'S CHANGING SHAPE!
AND--I'M CHANGING TOO!!
CAN THIS BE REALLY HAPPENING --OR AM I GOING MAD?!!
NO! IT ISN'T MAD!! I CAN FEEL MY BODY BURSTING WITH POWER-- POWER SUCH AS I'VE NEVER KNOWN!!
THE CANE!! IT HAS BECOME A MIGHTY HAMMER!! AND I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO--INTO--WAIT! THERE ARE WORDS INSCRIBED ON THE HAMMER!!
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR"
THOR!! THE LEGENDARY GOD OF THUNDER!! THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL MYTHOLOGY!! THIS IS HIS HAMMER!! AND I--I AM THOR!!!
8

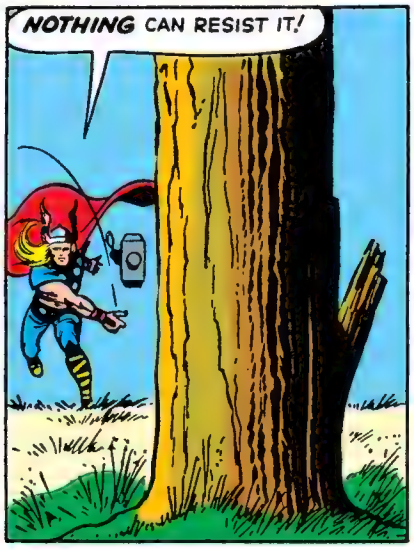
A FEW MOMENTS AGO, I COULDN'T EVEN BUDGE THIS BOULDER!
BUT NOW...
PART 2
"the POWER of THOR!
I CAN LIFT IT AS IF IT WERE CARDBOARD!
V-786
9

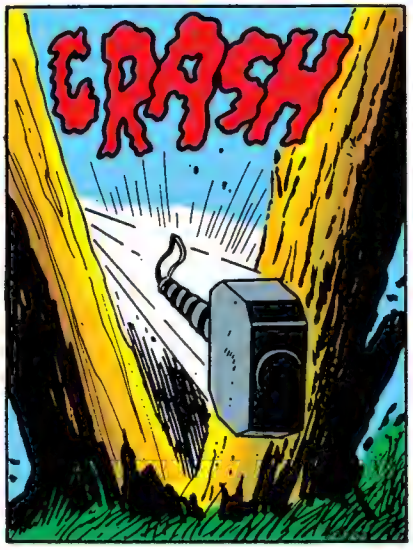
THE STONE CREATURES WILL NEVER SUSPECT THAT THEIR FRAIL QUARRY ESCAPED THROUGH THIS REAR EXIT!
BUT WHAT HAPPENS NOW? DO I WALK AMIDST THE CIVILIZED WORLD AS A-MYTHOLOGICAL GOD?? OR--? IT IS TOO BEWILDERING! I MUST PAUSE... AND THINK THIS OUT!
THOR... THE GOD OF THUNDER! WHAT DO I REMEMBER OF HIM FROM MY SCHOOL DAYS? HE WAS THE NOBLEST AND STRONGEST OF ALL THE NORSE GODS!
THE FOURTH DAY OF THE WEEK, THURSDAY WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR! HE WAS--WHA--? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?? I'M-- I'M CHANGING AGAIN!!
I'M BACK TO NORMAL ONCE MORE! BUT HOW?? WHAT CAUSED IT?? WAIT-- THE INSCRIPTION ON THE HAMMER--
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF THOR!"
SO THAT'S IT! I MUST CONTINUALLY HOLD THE HAMMER TO RETAIN THOR'S STRENGTH!
IF I LET GO OF IT, IN ABOUT SIXTY SECONDS I REVERT BACK TO MY NORMAL SELF!
ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, THOR'S HAMMER HAD OTHER CHARACTERISTICS! ONE, IS THAT IT WAS SO HEAVY, NONE BUT MIGHTY THOR COULD LIFT IT!
10

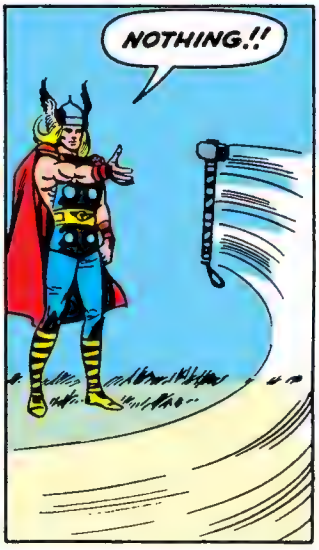
THE LEGENDS ALSO SAY THAT THE HAMMER IS ENCHANTED! WHENEVER THOR HURLS IT FROM HIM...

...IT MUST RETURN!

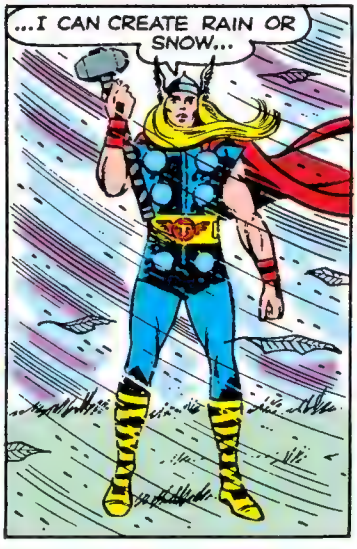

ALSO, THE HAMMER IS INVINCIBLE!


NOTHING CAN RESIST IT!

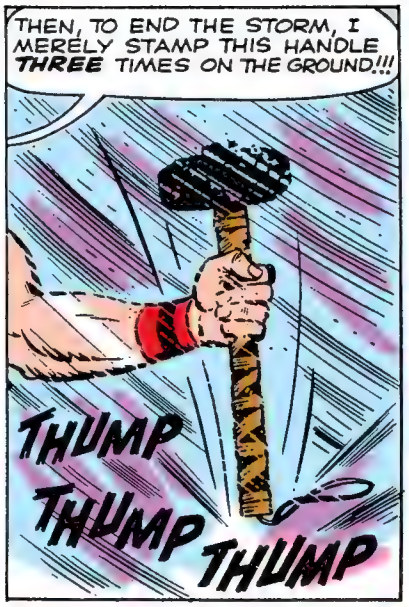

CRASH

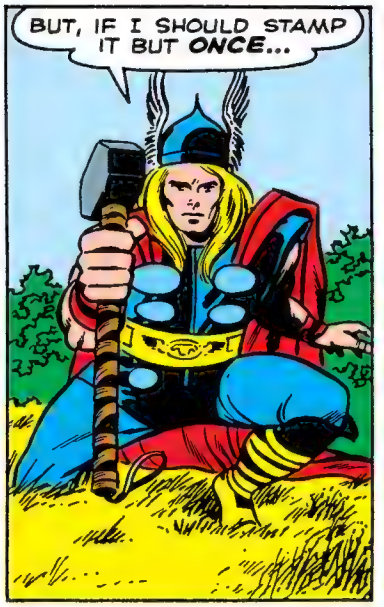

NOTHING!!

HIS BLOOD BOILING WITH EXCITEMENT, THE TRANSFORMED DOCTOR CONTINUES TO EXPERIMENT WITH HIS MYSTIC WEAPON...
BY STAMPING THE HANDLE TWICE ON THE GROUND...
THUMP
THUMP


...I CAN CREATE RAIN OR SNOW...

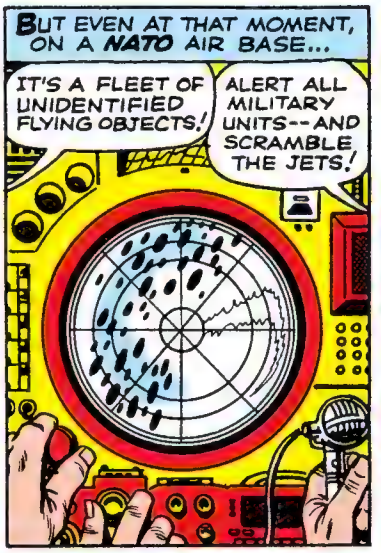
...WHICH SOON GROW INTO A RAGING TORNADO! ALL THE POWER OF THE STORM IS THOR'S TO COMMAND!
BOOM!

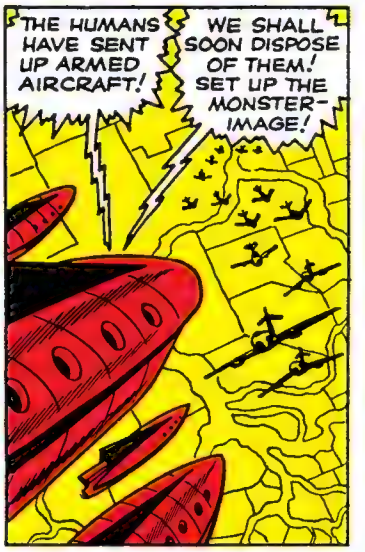

THEN, TO END THE STORM, I MERELY STAMP THIS HANDLE THREE TIMES ON THE GROUND!!!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

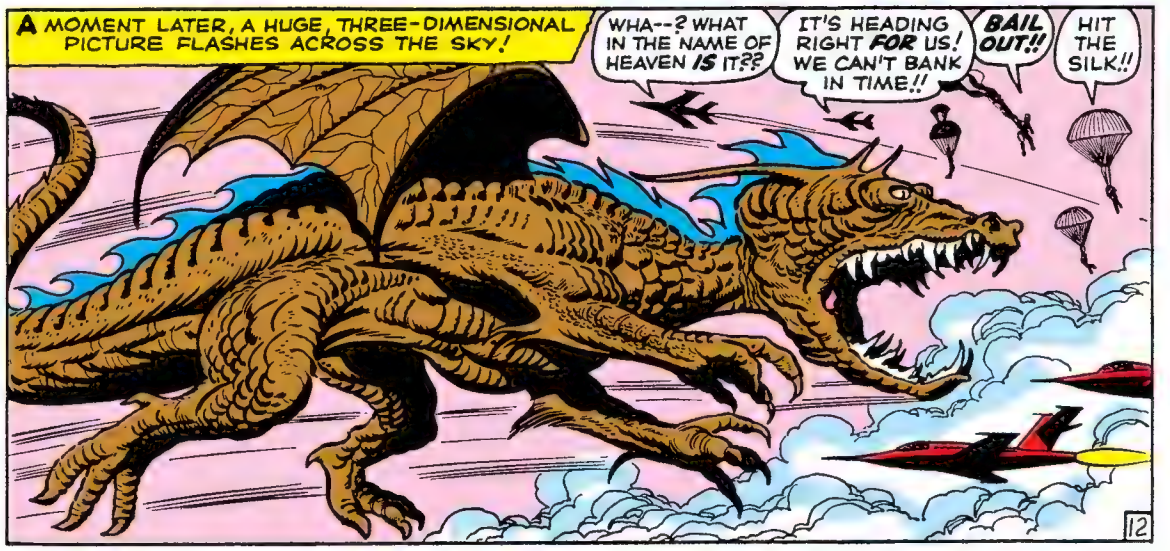

BUT, IF I SHOULD STAMP IT BUT ONCE...

THE HAMMER CHANGES BACK INTO A CANE... AND I ONCE AGAIN BECOME DR. DON BLAKE!

TO THINK, THE MOST INCREDIBLE POWER OF ALL TIME HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN THAT CAVE, WAITING TO BE FOUND!! BUT... I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME! THE WORLD MUST BE WARNED OF THE PRESENCE OF THE STONE MEN!


BUT EVEN AT THAT MOMENT, ON A NATO AIR BASE...
IT'S A FLEET OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS!
ALERT ALL MILITARY UNITS--AND SCRAMBLE THE JETS!


THE HUMANS HAVE SENT UP ARMED AIRCRAFT!
WE SHALL SOON DISPOSE OF THEM! SET UP THE MONSTER-IMAGE!


A MOMENT LATER, A HUGE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL PICTURE FLASHES ACROSS THE SKY!
WHA--? WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN IS IT??
IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US! WE CAN'T BANK IN TIME!!
BAIL OUT!!
HIT THE SILK!!
12

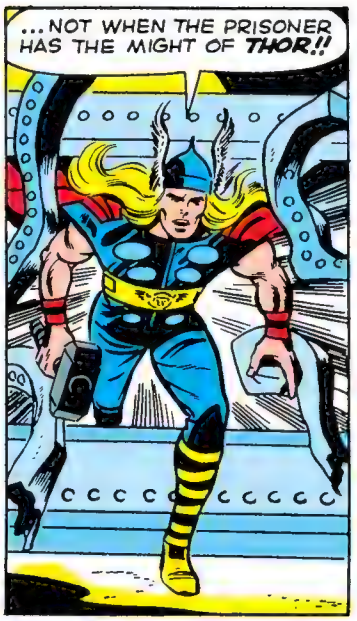
HOW EASILY WE TRICKED THE EARTHLINGS!
NATURALLY-- THE HUMANS ARE A PRIMITIVE RACE!
IT SHALL BE CHILD'S PLAY TO CONQUER THEM!
BEHOLD HOW THEY TRY TO STOP US WITH MISSILES!
AS THOUGH MERE ROCKETS COULD PENETRATE OUR ATOMIC FORCE FIELDS!
THE EARTHLINGS HAVE NOTHING THAT CAN KEEP US FROM DESCENDING UPON THEM! NOTHING!!
EARTH'S WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST THE INVADERS! BUT, PERHAPS WHAT TWENTIETH CENTURY SCIENCE CAN'T DO...
THUMP
...THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN!!
STRANGE--A MOMENT AGO THE SKY WAS CLEAR! YET NOW THERE IS A STORM BREWING!
HOW CAN THIS BE? ...OUR WEATHER INSTRUMENTS DID NOT FORECAST IT!
THE ENEMY IS A LONG DISTANCE FROM ME! YET, BY USING THE MIGHT OF THOR, AND WHIRLING MY HAMMER WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING, I MAY YET BE ABLE TO STREAK THRU THE SKY, AS THE THUNDER GOD SHOULD!
THERE! I RELEASE MY WHIRLING HAMMER FOR A SPLIT-SECOND, CATCHING THE UNBREAKABLE THONG, AND THEN--I AM PULLED ALONG AFTER IT LIKE THE TAIL OF A ROCKET!!
13

PART 3

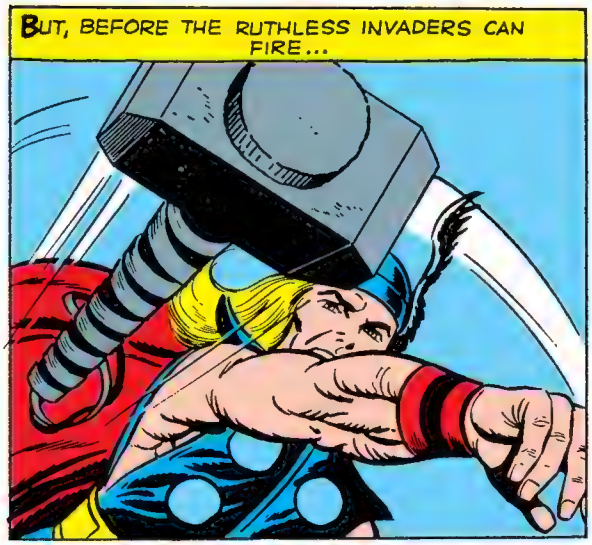
THOR THE MIGHTY STRIKES BACK!

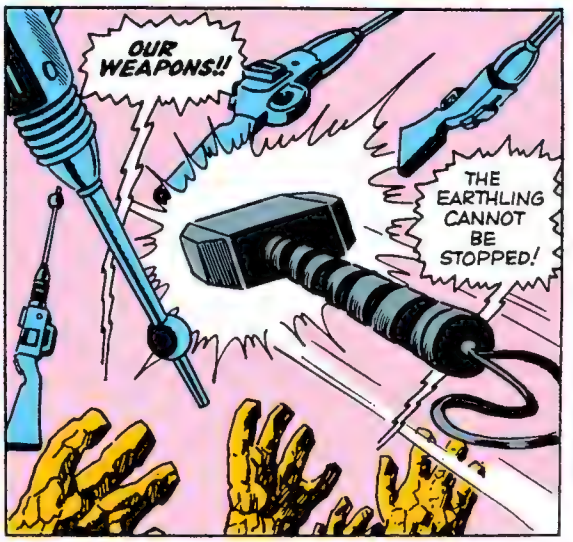
BEHOLD! AN EARTHLING! FLYING THRU THE AIR! TO ATTACK US!
DO NOT SLAY HIM! HE MUST BE CAPTURED, AND STUDIED!
CAPTURE HIM? HOW??
HIS WHIRLING WEAPON HOLDS US AT BAY!
WAIT! HE IS DIRECTLY BENEATH OUR CAPTIVE CAGE! IN A MOMENT, HE WILL BE OUR HELPLESS PRISONER!
HAH! HE IS OURS!
THUD!

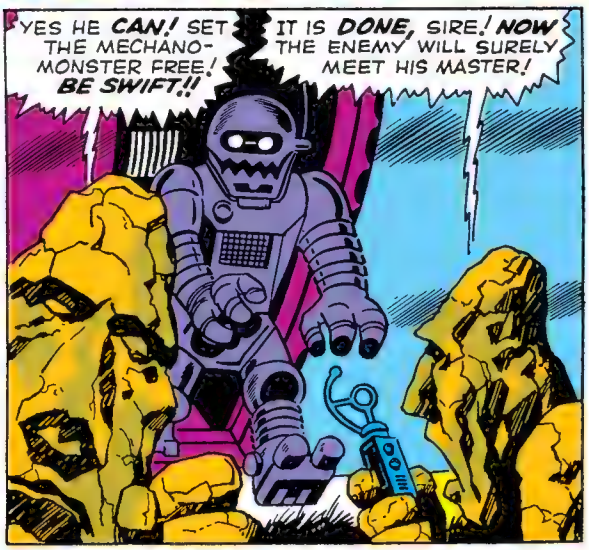
THE EARTHLING IS POWERLESS...
NO! OBSERVE... IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
IRON BARS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE!

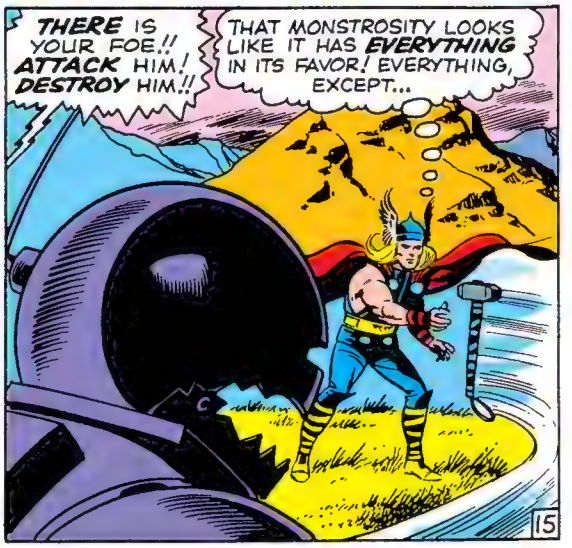

...NOT WHEN THE PRISONER HAS THE MIGHT OF THOR!!

THE EARTHLING IS TOO POWERFUL TO BE CAPTURED ALIVE!
HE MUST BE SLAIN! PREPARE TO DISINTEGRATE HIM!

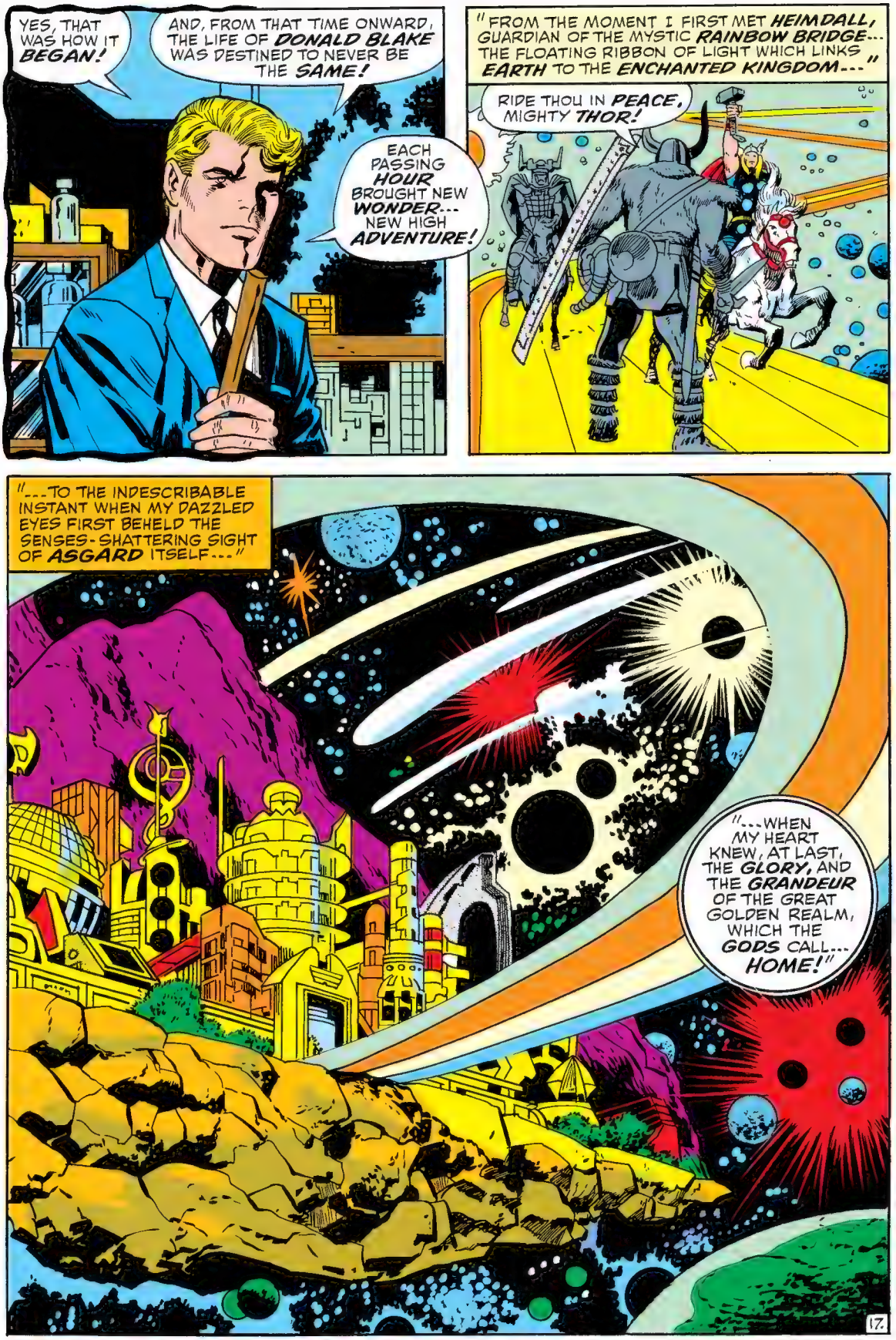

BUT, BEFORE THE RUTHLESS INVADERS CAN FIRE...


OUR WEAPONS!!
THE EARTHLING CANNOT BE STOPPED!


YES HE CAN! SET THE MECHANO-MONSTER FREE! BE SWIFT!!
IT IS DONE, SIRE! NOW THE ENEMY WILL SURELY MEET HIS MASTER!


THERE IS YOUR FOE!! ATTACK HIM! DESTROY HIM!!
THAT MONSTROSITY LOOKS LIKE IT HAS EVERYTHING IN ITS FAVOR! EVERYTHING, EXCEPT...

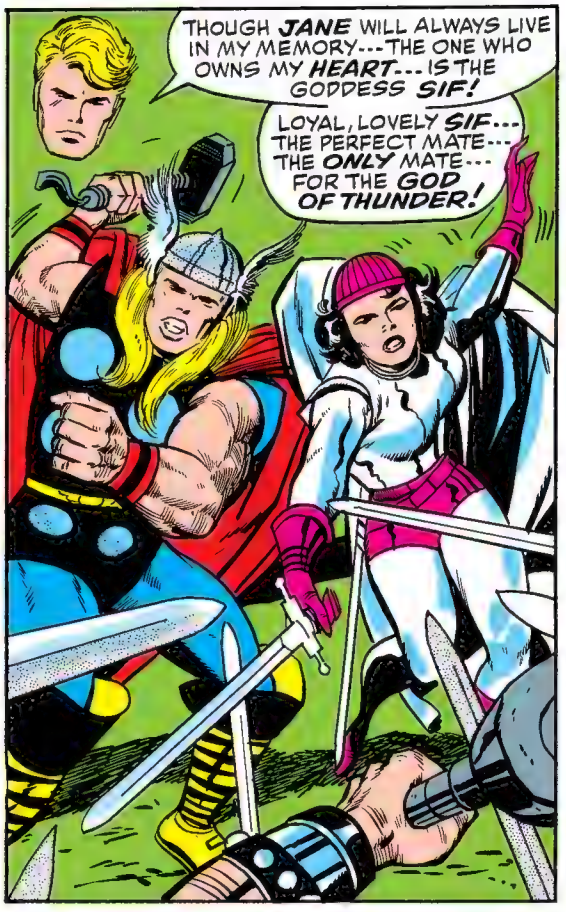
...THE HAMMER OF THOR!
CLANG!
HE HAS VANQUISHED THE MECHANO-MONSTER!
THE HUMAN IS TOO MIGHTY --TOO SKILLED IN THE ART OF BATTLE!
AND WE KNOW NOT HOW MANY MORE THERE ARE LIKE HIM ON EARTH!
BACK!! BACK TO THE SHIPS AT ONCE!! WE MUST FLEE THIS ACCURSED PLANET!!
I'VE BEATEN THEM! I HAVE PROVEN THAT THE POWER OF THE HAMMER AND THE MIGHT OF THE THUNDER-GOD ARE INVINCIBLE! NOTHING CAN CONQUER THOR! NOTHING!!
HERE COMES THE INFANTRY! IF I REMAIN HERE, THEY'LL QUESTION ME!! THEY WON'T REST TILL THEY'VE LEARNED MY SECRET! I'LL BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL CURIOSITY!
BUT, ALL THAT CAN BE AVOIDED BY ONE GESTURE...
THUMP
LOOK! THE INVADERS ARE FLYING AWAY!
BUT WHY?? WHAT COULD HAVE DRIVEN THEM OFF??
I DON'T KNOW! THERE'S NO ONE IN SIGHT...
NATO
...EXCEPT THAT LAME PASSER-BY, WITH A GNARLED OLD CANE!
WELL, IT'S A CINCH THAT SKINNY GENT ISN'T EARTH'S SECRET WEAPON!
THE MENACE IS ENDED! NOW, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO BACK TO THE STATES... TAKING WITH ME THE GREATEST POWER EVER KNOWN TO MORTAL MAN!
EDITOR'S NOTE: THAT WAS THE WAY OF IT, EXACTLY AS PRESENTED IN THE FIRST MEMORABLE VERSION, A FEW YEARS AGO! AND NOW--BACK TO THE PANDEMONIOUS PRESENT--
16


YES, THAT WAS HOW IT BEGAN!
AND, FROM THAT TIME ONWARD, THE LIFE OF DONALD BLAKE WAS DESTINED TO NEVER BE THE SAME!
EACH PASSING HOUR BROUGHT NEW WONDER... NEW HIGH ADVENTURE!
"FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST MET HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE MYSTIC RAINBOW BRIDGE... THE FLOATING RIBBON OF LIGHT WHICH LINKS EARTH TO THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM..."
RIDE THOU IN PEACE, MIGHTY THOR!
"...TO THE INDESCRIBABLE INSTANT WHEN MY DAZZLED EYES FIRST BEHELD THE SENSES-SHATTERING SIGHT OF ASGARD ITSELF..."
"...WHEN MY HEART KNEW, AT LAST, THE GLORY, AND THE GRANDEUR OF THE GREAT GOLDEN REALM, WHICH THE GODS CALL... HOME!"

BUT ALL ELSE PALED IN COMPARISON TO THE MIGHTIEST OF THE MIGHTIEST...
THE LORD OF ASGARD... THE ALL-WISE, ALL-JUST, ALL-FATHER HIMSELF!
ODIN... THE LIVING OMNI-POTENCE!!
18

"YES, I REMEMBER IT ALL! ALL THE BLUDGEONING BATTLES... THE NOBLE FRIENDS... AND THE DEADLY FOES!

AND JANE... CAN I EVER FORGET JANE FOSTER?
CAN I EVER FORGET THE GIRL WHO FIRST LOVED DR. BLAKE...
BUT WHO REJECTED THE PROSPECT OF SPENDING HER LIFE...AS THE BRIDE OF MIGHTY THOR!


THOUGH JANE WILL ALWAYS LIVE IN MY MEMORY...THE ONE WHO OWNS MY HEART...IS THE GODDESS SIF!
LOYAL, LOVELY SIF... THE PERFECT MATE... THE ONLY MATE... FOR THE GOD OF THUNDER!

BUT, HOW CAN I THINK OF LOVE... ...WHEN I'M STILL NOT CERTAIN OF MY OWN IDENTITY??
IS DR. BLAKE MERELY A MYTH...A CASUAL CREATION OF ALL-WISE ODIN?
WAS MY FINDING THE ENCHANTED HAMMER JUST PART OF SOME PRE-ARRANGED ASGARDIAN PLAN?
20.

OR...AM I WHAT I SEEMED TO BE... A NORMAL, AVERAGE HUMAN--??
A STAR-KISSED EARTHMAN WHO HAD ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED UPON THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME!
BUT, IF THAT'S THE ANSWER...THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ORIGINAL SON OF ODIN??
WHY? WHY...WAS HIS HAMMER LEFT ABANDONED IN THAT CAVE??
I'VE GOT TO KNOW! I'VE GOT TO KNOW!!
NEXT THE ANSWER!

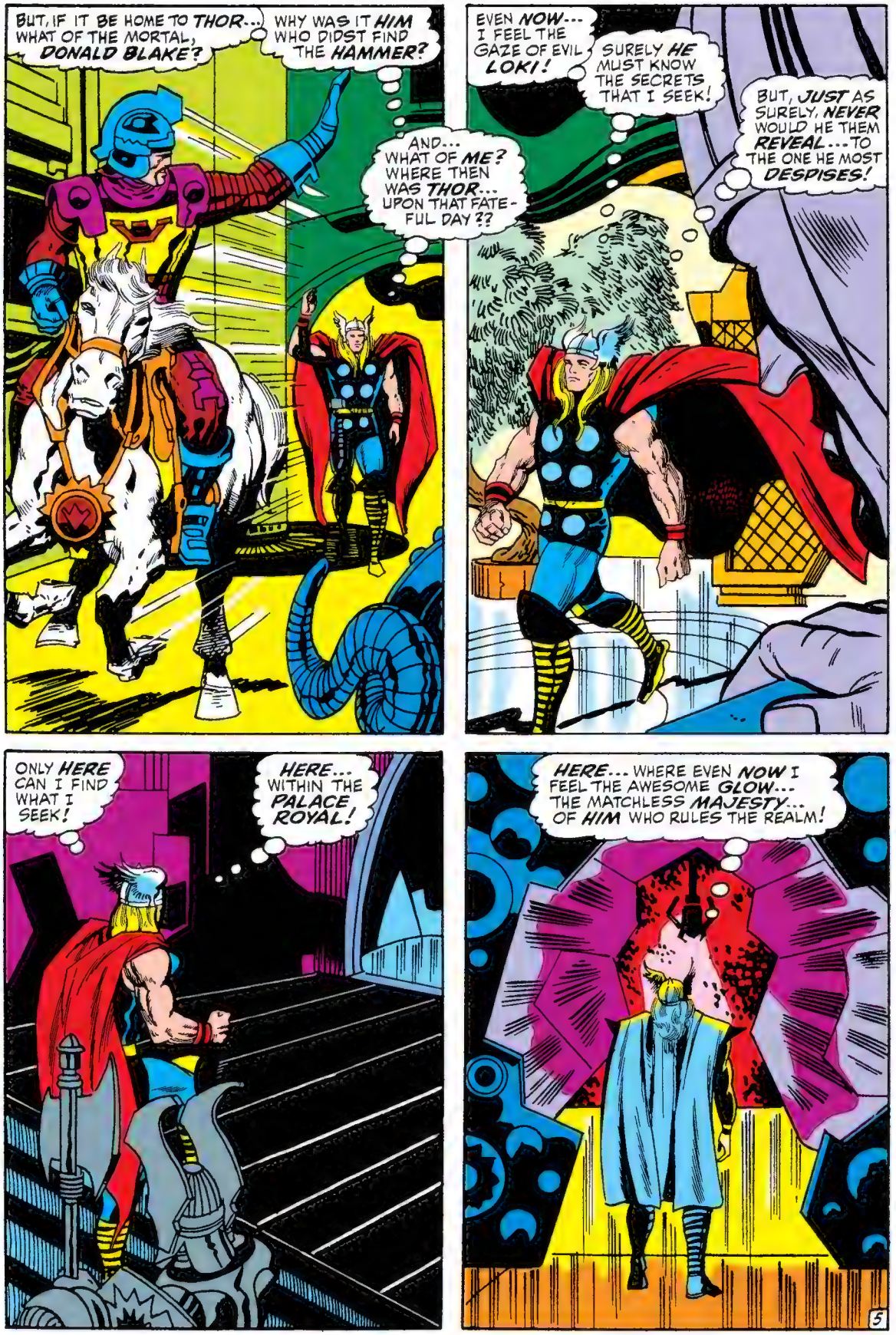
THOR
12¢
IND.
159
DEC
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE ANSWER AT LAST!

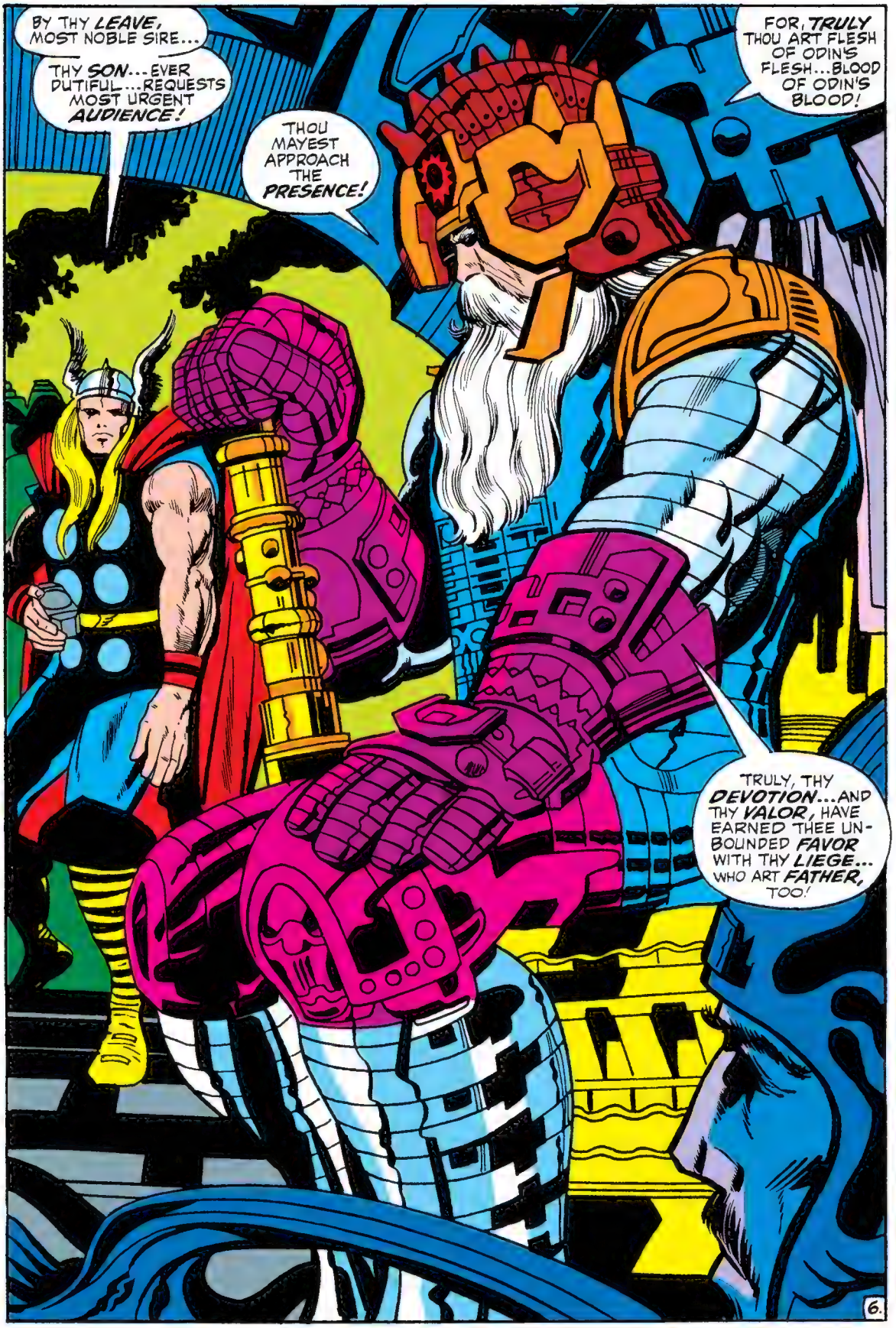
THE MIGHTY THOR!™
WHO IS THE REAL DON BLAKE?
THE ANSWER AT LAST!
THAT WAS A FINE BIT OF SURGERY, DOCTOR BLAKE!
YOUR HAND IS AS SKILL-FUL AS IT EVER WAS!
IF ONLY ALL MY QUESTIONS.. ALL MY DOUBTS... COULD BE ALSO SOLVED WITH A SURGEON'S SCALPEL!
A STAN LEE JACK KIRBY PRODUCTION
INKING: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU HERE FOR QUITE A WHILE, DOCTOR?
HAVE YOU BEEN AWAY ON VACATION?
EH, YES... YOU MIGHT SAY SO!
IF ONE CAN CALL LIFE-AND-DEATH BATTLE WITH MANGOG, IN FAR-OFF ASGARD ... IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE COMING OF RAGNAROK ...A VACATION!
YOU LOOK TIRED, BLAKE! IT TAKES A LOT OUT OF YOU TO PERFORM DELICATE SURGERY AFTER A LONG LAY-OFF!
I SUGGEST YOU TRY TO GET SOME REST BEFORE YOUR NEXT OPERATION!
HE'S RIGHT! I AM TIRED... MORE TIRED THAN HE CAN SUSPECT!
BUT NOT FROM WHAT I'VE DONE... HERE ON EARTH!
I'LL TAKE HIS ADVICE!
IT'LL GIVE ME THE CHANCE I NEED... TO THINK!
TO THINK OF ANSWERS ...TO QUESTIONS I'VE BEEN AFRAID TO ASK!
.. SUCH AS THE HAUNTING QUESTION OF... WHO I REALLY AM?
MY LIFE AS THOR BEGAN A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO... WHEN I FOUND THE ENCHANTED HAMMER!
BUT THOR HAS LIVED FOR AGES!!
SO, WHO WAS THOR BEFORE I FOUND THE MYSTIC MALLET??
...AND, WHO WAS DR. BLAKE??
2.

I'VE GOT TO LEARN THE ANSWER... NO MATTER WHAT IT MEANS!
THE ANSWER... THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND... IN FAR-OFF, FABLED ASGARD!
I'LL LIE STILL ...AND SILENT... STRIP MY MIND OF EARTHLY THOUGHTS...
SO THAT THE MEMORY OF ODIN'S SON CAN NOW TAKE OVER... FOR ONLY THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN KNOW THE ANSWER--!!

SLOWLY, ALL EARTHLY THOUGHTS DISSOLVE AND FADE, AS THE MIGHTY THOR APPEARS ON BIFROST, THE LEGENDARY RAINBOW BRIDGE TO FABLED ASGARD...
HAIL, TRUSTY HEIMDALL!
HAIL, PRINCE OF ASGARD!
HOW STANDS THE GOLDEN REALM?
THE THRONE ENDURES!
THE SCEPTER GLEAMS!
THEN ALL IS WELL!
THUS SHALL IT EVER BE!
MOMENTS LATER, THE ROYAL WARRIOR ENTERS THE GREAT GOLDEN GATES, TO BEHOLD ONCE MORE THE WONDER AND THE MAJESTY OF THE REALM ETERNAL...
GREETINGS TO THEE, NOBLE PRINCE! OUR LAND IS RICHER FOR THY PRESENCE!
MY HEART IS GLADDENED BY THY WORDS!
OF ALL THE SIGHTS THE EYE BEHOLDS... NONE CAN MATCH THE SIGHT OF ...HOME!
4

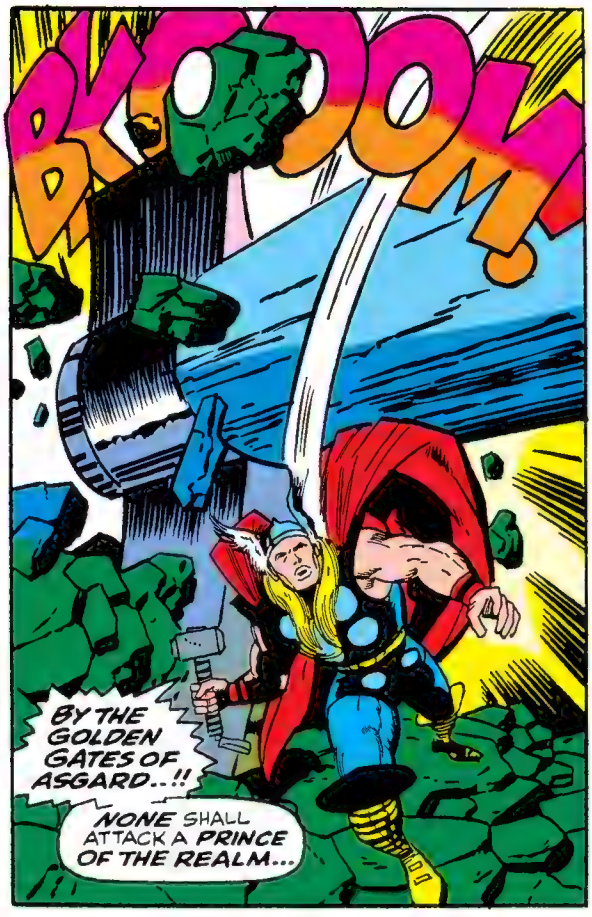

BUT, IF IT BE HOME TO THOR... WHAT OF THE MORTAL, DONALD BLAKE?
WHY WAS IT HIM WHO DIDST FIND THE HAMMER?
AND... WHAT OF ME? WHERE THEN WAS THOR... UPON THAT FATE-FUL DAY??
EVEN NOW... I FEEL THE GAZE OF EVIL LOKI!
SURELY HE MUST KNOW THE SECRETS THAT I SEEK!
BUT, JUST AS SURELY, NEVER WOULD HE THEM REVEAL... TO THE ONE HE MOST DESPISES!
ONLY HERE CAN I FIND WHAT I SEEK!
HERE... WITHIN THE PALACE ROYAL!
HERE... WHERE EVEN NOW I FEEL THE AWESOME GLOW... THE MATCHLESS MAJESTY... OF HIM WHO RULES THE REALM!
5


BY THY LEAVE, MOST NOBLE SIRE...
THY SON...EVER DUTIFUL...REQUESTS MOST URGENT AUDIENCE!
THOU MAYEST APPROACH THE PRESENCE!
FOR, TRULY THOU ART FLESH OF ODIN'S FLESH...BLOOD OF ODIN'S BLOOD!
TRULY, THY DEVOTION...AND THY VALOR, HAVE EARNED THEE UNBOUNDED FAVOR WITH THY LIEGE... WHO ART FATHER, TOO!
6.

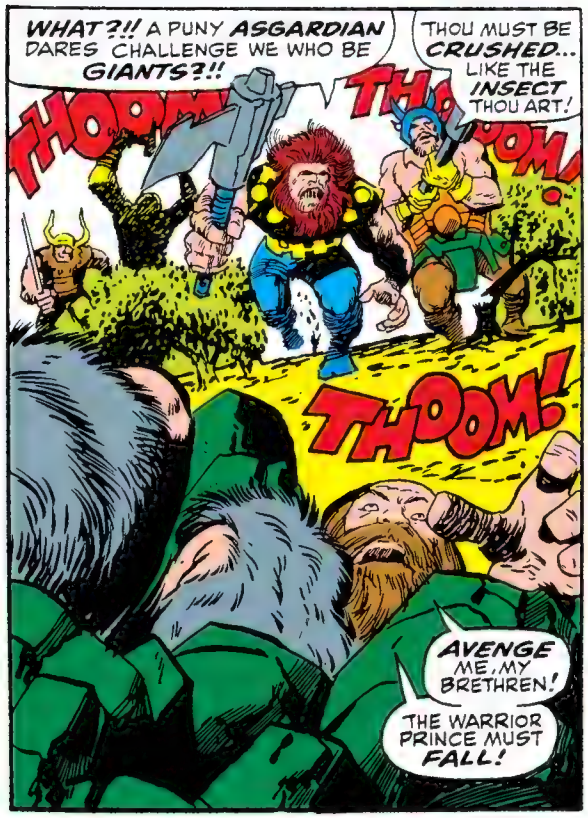
NO WORDS OF THINE ARE NEEDED!
IN MINE AWESOME OMNISCIENCE, I DO PERCEIVE THY THOUGHTS...
I SENSE WHAT THOU DESIREST!
'TIS KNOWLEDGE THOR DOTH CRAVE!
AND 'TIS KNOWLEDGE THOU SHALT HAVE!
I...I'M AWAKE! I'M DONALD BLAKE AGAIN!
BUT...THERE STILL IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
THIS TIME...I'M NOT ALONE!
THERE'S SOMEONE IN MY ROOM!
HAVE FAITH, THOU PUZZLED MORTAL!
THE VEIL SHALL SOON BE LIFTED!
THE VOICE OF... ODIN!!
7.

THE SECRET THOU WOULDST LEARN IS BURIED IN THE PAST... IN FAR OFF NIFFEL-HEIM... WHERE THE STORM GIANTS DWELL!
'TWAS THERE... BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTAL MEMORY... THAT A ROYAL TRUCE WAS SIGNED!
A TRUCE... FORBIDDING ANY OF ASGARDIAN BLOOD ...FROM VENTURING FORTH INTO THE LAND THEY CALLED THEIR OWN!
BUT... WITH THE FOOLHARDINESS OF YOUTH... SOON AFTER THOU DIDST BECOME A MAN...
THOU DARED TO BREAK THE ROYAL TRUCE!!
AND NOW... I LIFT THE VEIL WHICH CLOUDS THY MEMORY... THAT THOU MAY SEE THE PAST..!!
THOUGH THE DEADLY BIRDBEAST HAS FLOWN INTO NIFFEL-HEIM... I SHALL NOT GIVE UP THE HUNT!
SO LONG AS HE DOTH LIVE, THERE CAN BE NO SAFETY FOR ASGARDIAN... OR STORM GIANT ALIKE!
NOW SHALT THE HAMMER OF THOR END THY DAYS OF MURDER AND OF PILLAGE... FORE'ER!
8

THE DEED IS DONE!
THE THUNDER GOD TRIUMPHANT!
NEVERMORE SHALL ANY FALL PREY TO YONDER LIFELESS TALONS!
WHO DARES TO TREAD UPON FORBIDDEN LAND??
'TIS I, THE SON OF ODIN, WHO HAST DONE FOR THEE GREAT SERVICE!
SILENCE, BASE INTRUDER!
THOU HAST BROKEN THE ROYAL TRUCE!
AND FOR THAT, THE PRICE IS DEATH!
9.


BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD..!!
NONE SHALL ATTACK A PRINCE OF THE REALM...

...WITHOUT FEELING THE POWER OF ENCHANTED MJOLNIR!


WHAT?!! A PUNY ASGARDIAN DARES CHALLENGE WE WHO BE GIANTS?!!
THOU MUST BE CRUSHED... LIKE THE INSECT THOU ART!
THOOM!
AVENGE ME, MY BRETHREN!
THE WARRIOR PRINCE MUST FALL!

THOR SHALL NOT FALTER!
FOR ASGARD AND HONOR... I STRIKE!
SO SAYS THE SON OF ODIN!

NOT E'EN THY SIZE CAN GIVE ME PAUSE---
THOUGH THOU BE TRULY LIVING GIANTS... THERE IS SOMETHING BIGGER STILL---
THE MOUNTAIN 'NEATH WHICH THOU DO CHARGE!
THE MOUNTAIN ...WHICH MIGHTY MJOLNIR NOW SHALL SHATTER!
KTAM
VRROOOM!
'TIS DONE! NOW ARE THEY TRAPPED, WITHIN---BUT WAIT!
FROM THE FAR HORIZON... A BALL OF FLAME DOTH LIGHT THE SKY!!
THE BATTLE IS NOT YET ENDED!
11.

OTHER STORM GIANTS STRIKE FROM AFAR!
'TIS SAFER TO USE THEIR DEADLY FIRE TUBES, THAN BRAVE THE WRATH OF THOR IN FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER!
SSSZZZ
HO, SON OF ODIN!
I HAVE FOUND THEE AT LAST!
MOST NOBLE BALDER!
WHAT SPORT NOW LIES IN STORE.. WITH THEE BESIDE ME IN THE FRAY!
NOT SO, MIGHTY THOR!
THOUGH MY LIMBS CRAVE BATTLE, AS SURELY AS DO THINE... I HAVE COME TO LEAD THEE HENCE!
SINCE THE TRESPASS IS THINE...THE WRONG IS THINE, AS WELL!
THOU WOULDST HAVE ME FLEE FROM COMBAT?
I WOULD HAVE THEE HONOR THE TREATY ROYAL!
THOU ART RIGHT, AS EVER, FAITHFUL FRIEND!
MINE HAMMER'S ENCHANTMENT SHALL AFFORD US SAFE PASSAGE!
BUT NOT EVEN MJOLNIR SHALL PROTECT THEE FROM ODIN'S RAGE!
12

YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT THOR WAS YOUNG... HEADSTRONG... SUPREMELY CONFIDENT OF HIS OWN GODLIKE POWER!
BUT, WHAT HAS THAT TO DO WITH ME?
CANST THOU NOT SEE? THY FATE... AND HIS... ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
BUT STILL YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES!
HOW DID I ENTER THE PICTURE? AND WHERE WAS HE? WHERE WAS THE ORIGINAL THOR, WHEN I CAME ON THE SCENE??
ONLY YOU CAN TELL ME... FOR I HAVE NO MEMORY OF THOSE EVENTS!
AYE! 'TIS AS ODIN PLANNED IT!
'TWAS NOT SEEMLY FOR THEE TO KNOW... TILL NOW!
THEREFORE, CLEAR THY MIND OF EVERY THOUGHT... AS I TAKE THEE TO THE PAST ONCE MORE...!
FOR THOU MUST RETURN TO ASGARD... TO THE MEMORY OF YON LUSTY, BRAWLING ERA...!
EVER DIDST THOU TEST THY STRENGTH IN ENDLESS JOUSTING... WITH NO MARK OF FEAR OR FAVOR!
THOUGH THOU ART THE GOD OF THUNDER, THE MIGHTIEST ARM OF ALL IS MINE!
THEN LET THE STRENGTH OF THY LIMBS PROVE THE BOASTING OF THY LIPS!

NONE CAN BREAK THE HOLD OF GONDOLFF!
BAH! THE ARM OF THOR DOTH HAVE NO EQUAL!
BEHOLD THE THUNDER GOD! HE WEAKENS!
NOT SO, LOUD CLOD!
HE DOTH BUT HUMOR HAPLESS GONDOLFF!
TWO SCORE HATH THOR THIS DAY DEFEATED!
AND STILL HE TIRES NOT!
SECRETLY HATH GONDOLFF PRACTICED... MONTH AFTER MONTH..!
BY MY TROTH... HE'LL NOT BE BESTED!

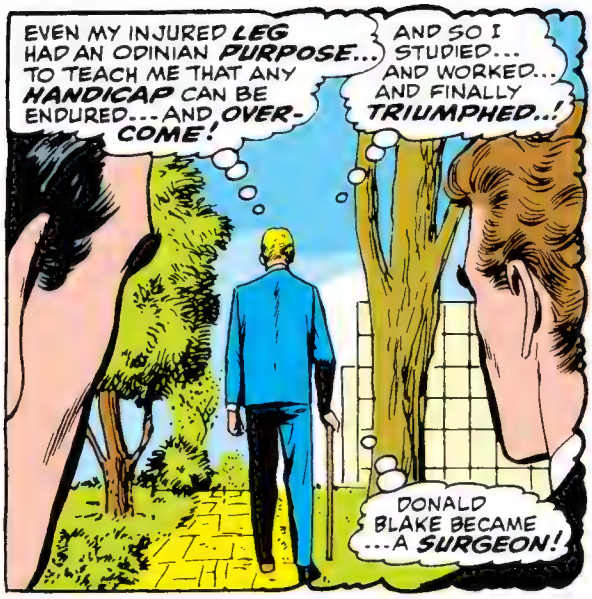
THE WARRIOR'S HEART OF VALIANT VOLSTAGG NOW, IS SORELY PAINED!
'TIS I WHO SHOULD BE WAGING COMBAT ...DEFEATING BOTH WITH BUT A SHRUG!
INSTEAD, I FILL MY CUP! THE NECTAR SHALL APPEASE MY BATTLE-HUNGRY BLOOD!
IF THOU WOULDST JOIN THE CONTEST... VOLSTAGG HAS BUT TO ASK!
NAY! 'TWOULD NOT BE FAIR TO THOSE OF SMALLER SIZE!
AHHH, IF THY BATTLE PROWESS COULD BUT MATCH THY FEARLESS WORDS!
SPOP!
I THANK THEE FOR THY COMPLIMENT!
...IF SUCH IT IS!
MIND WHERE THOU ART, THOU BUMBLING OAF!
THY LUMBERING FRAME IS FAR TOO LARGE... THE CHAMBER FAR TOO CROWDED... FOR SUCH AS THEE TO BOW!
ODD'S BLOOD!
WHAT MISHAP HATH BEFALLEN ALL?
THE NEXT MISHAP WILL BE THY HEAD...
AS I REMOVE IT FROM THINE OVERSTUFFED BODY!
GONDOLFF, STAY THY TONGUE!
THOUGH HE BE A CLUMSY KNAVE, STILL IS VOLSTAGG FRIEND TO THOR!
15

THEN 'TIS AS I SUSPECTED!
WHEN THOU DIDST SEE THAT GONDOLFF HAD THEE BEATEN... THOU SIGNALLED VOLSTAGG, TO END THE CONTEST!
BUT NOW HATH THE GOD OF THUNDER O'ER-STEPPED HIMSELF!
BY LAW OF ASGARD... NOW MUST THOU ADMIT THY BASE DECEPTION!
I CALL THEE LIAR!
THE VICTORY WAS MINE! I DID BUT TOY WITH THEE!
THEN, LET OUR STEEL DECIDE!
I HAVE COMRADES A'PLENTY TO STRIKE FOR GONDOLFF!
THOR HATH BUT FEW...
BUT WE BE MORE THAN ENOW! FOR, WE BE HOGUN THE GRIM...
AND FANDRAL THE DASHING...
...AND VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG, WHOSE VERY NAME MAKES ARMIES TREMBLE!
WHILST THOU DO BATTLE YONDER...
VOLSTAGG SHALL SEEK OUT COWARDS WHO MAY BE HIDING BELOW!
16

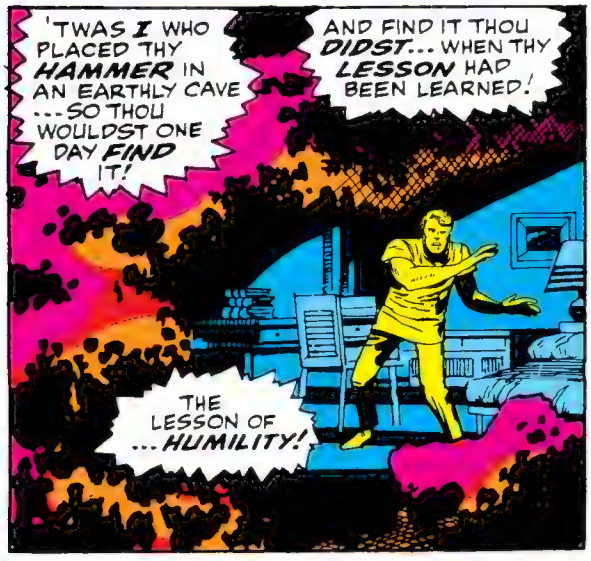
THUNDER GOD, LEAD ON!
SO! THOU WOULDST TRADE STEEL WITH ASGARD'S FINEST!
BETTER THOU HADST TENDED TO THINE ARM WRESTLING!
NOW, FOR CERTAIN, THOU ART FAIR OUT-CLASSED!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
THERE ARE BUT THREE OF THEM... AGAINST A HORDE OF GONDOLFF'S ALLIES!
YET, 'TIS WE WHO ARE THE SMITTEN... 'TIS WE WHO NOW FALL BACK!
I SAY ENOW!
THE VOICE OF ODIN! HE BIDS ME HALT!

THOU, WHO ARE CALLED BLAKE... NOW HEED MY WORDS!
NOW SHALL COME THE ANSWER... WHICH THOU SEEKEST..!
LET THY MEMORY RETURN ...TO THAT FATEFUL MOMENT... WHEN I SUMMONED THEE...
THOU DIDST CALL ME, SIRE?
AYE, GOD OF THUNDER!
THOU ART THE FAVORED SON OF ODIN! THOU ART BRAVE BEYOND COMPARE, NOBLE AS A PRINCE MUST BE!
THY STRENGTH IS LEGEND! THINE HONOR, UNSULLIED! AND YET... I FIND THEE WANTING!
SORELY GRIEVED AM I, MY FATHER!
WHEREIN HAVE I FAILED??
THOU ART LACKING IN... HUMILITY!
THOUGH THOU ART SUPREME IN THY POWER, AND THY PRIDE... THOU MUST KNOW WEAKNESS... THOU MUST FEEL PAIN!
THUS, THOU SHALT LEAVE THE GOLDEN REALM ...AND SHED THY GODLY TRAPPINGS!
BUT, SUCH LESSON CAN NE'ER BE LEARNED BY THUNDER GOD!
THOU HAST CONJURED UP A VISION!
WHAT WORLD IS THAT, MY LIEGE?
'TIS KNOWN AS EARTH... WHERE FRAGILE MORTALS DWELL!
AND THERE SHALT THOU RESIDE... AND THERE SHALT THOU LEARN THAT NONE CAN BE TRULY STRONG UNLESS THEY BE TRULY HUMBLE!

NO LONGER ART THOU GOD OF THUNDER!
NOR SHALL MJOLNIR SERVE THEE NOW!
THY MEMORY TOO, SHALL I STRIP BARE!
THEN GO... FOR LIFE ANEW AWAITS THEE!
IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME NOW!
MY FIRST MEMORIES... THAT DAY I FOUND MYSELF UPON THE CAMPUS... OF THE STATE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE!
I INTRODUCED MYSELF...AS DONALD BLAKE!
THE NAME SOUNDED SO RIGHT...SO PROPER ...I WAS STRANGELY UNAWARE THAT I HAD NEVER KNOWN OF IT BEFORE!
THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE IS IN BUILDING "A", SECOND FLOOR, BLAKE!
THANK YOU!
I REALIZE NOW ...IT WAS BECAUSE OF ODIN'S ENCHANTMENT ...THAT I NEVER THOUGHT OF YESTERDAY...NEVER SUSPECTED THAT BLAKE HAD NO PAST!
19

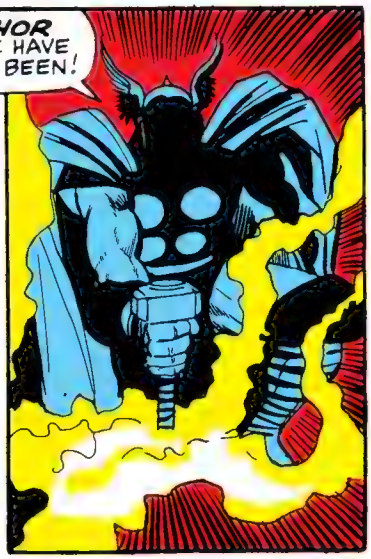

EVEN MY INJURED LEG HAD AN ODINIAN PURPOSE... TO TEACH ME THAT ANY HANDICAP CAN BE ENDURED---AND OVER-COME!
AND SO I STUDIED... AND WORKED... AND FINALLY TRIUMPHED..!
DONALD BLAKE BECAME ...A SURGEON!

THOU DIDST TREAT THE SICK, AND THE AFFLICTED!
THOU DIDST WALK AMONGST THE WEAK...AND GIVE THEM STRENGTH!
YET, EVER WERT THOU SON OF ODIN...THOUGH THOU KNEW IT NOT!


'TWAS I WHO PLACED THY HAMMER IN AN EARTHLY CAVE ---SO THOU WOULDST ONE DAY FIND IT!
AND FIND IT THOU DIDST... WHEN THY LESSON HAD BEEN LEARNED!
THE LESSON OF ...HUMILITY!

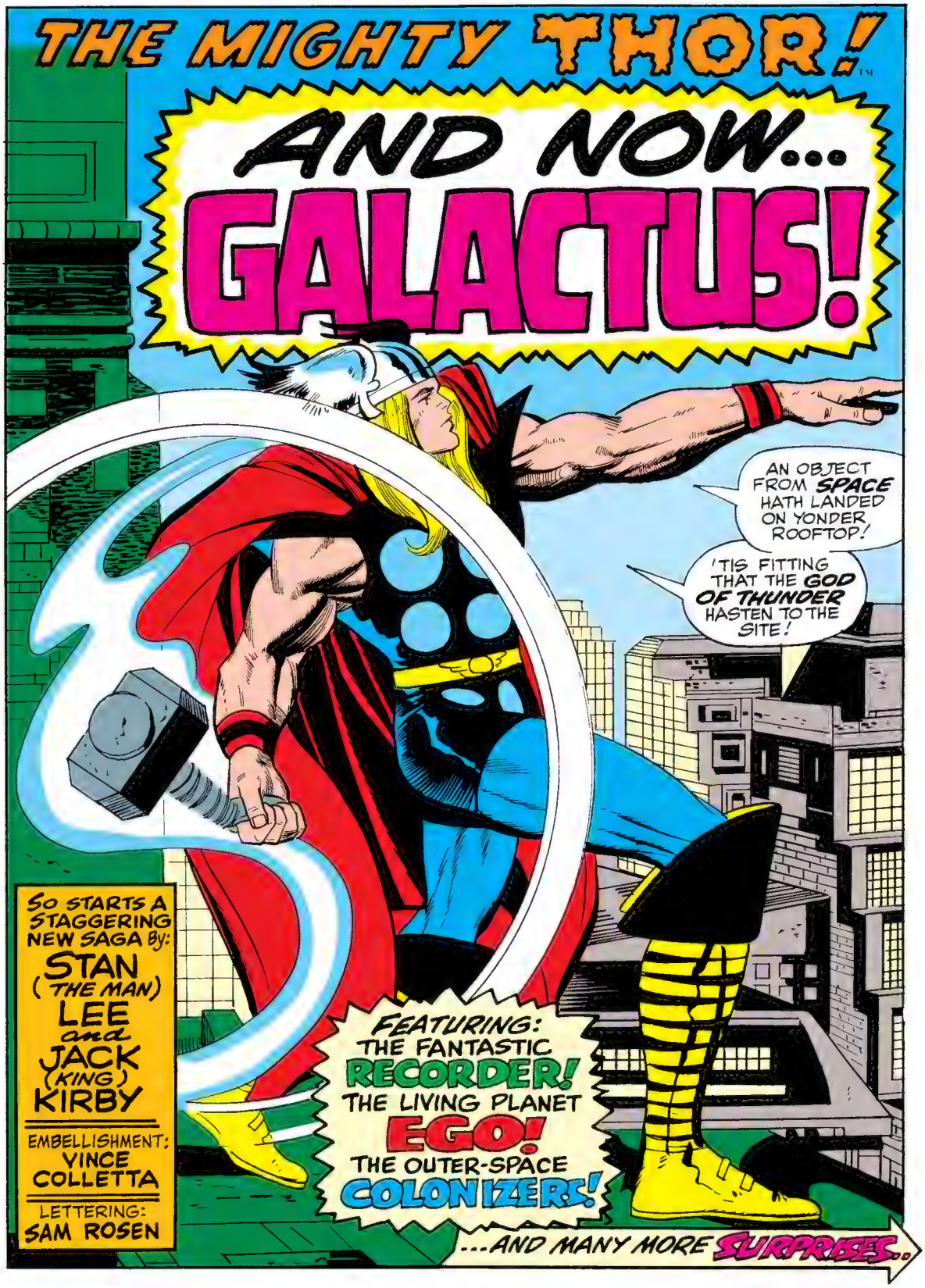
THEN THAT WAS WHY MY MARRIAGE TO JANE FOSTER COULD NEVER BE!
THAT WAS WHY I COULD NEVER RENOUNCE MY GODLY HERITAGE!

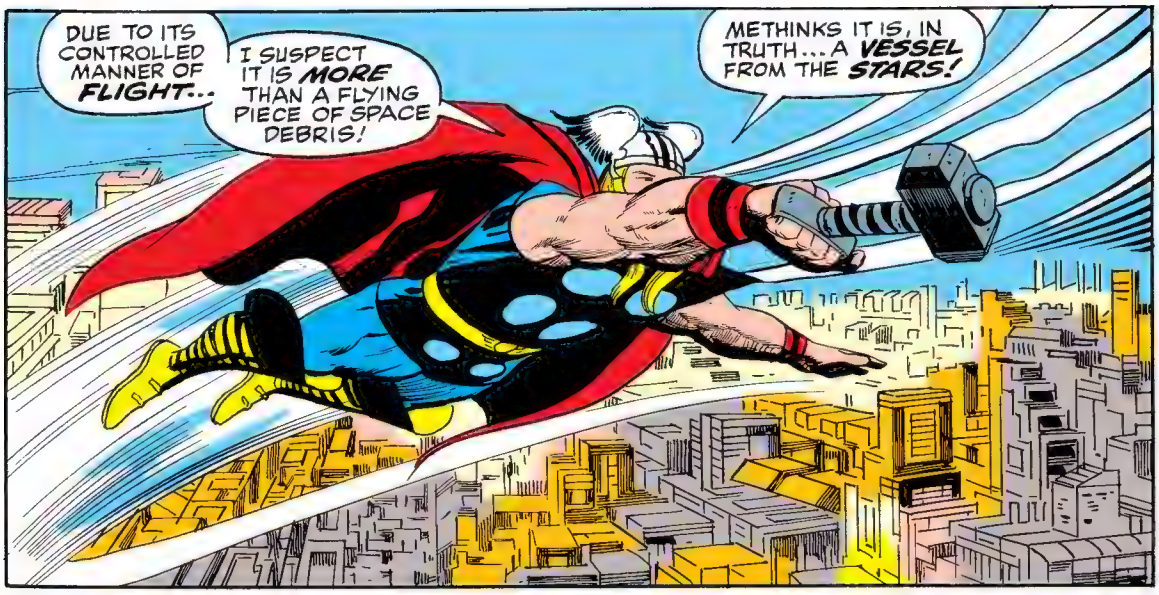
THOUGH IN SPIRIT I AM DONALD BLAKE...

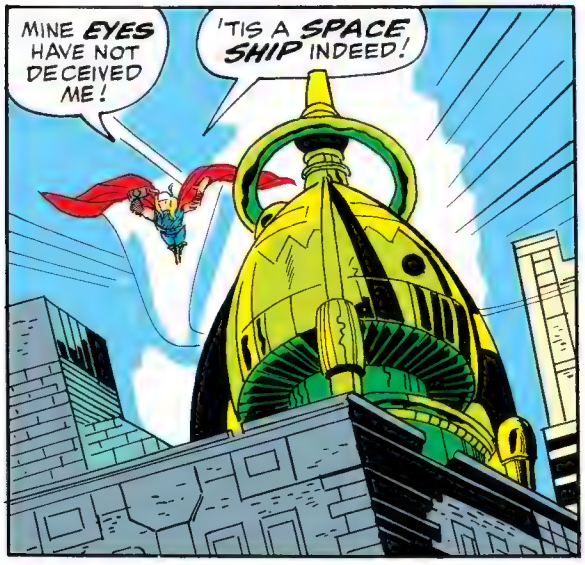

'TIS THOR THAT I HAVE EVER BEEN!

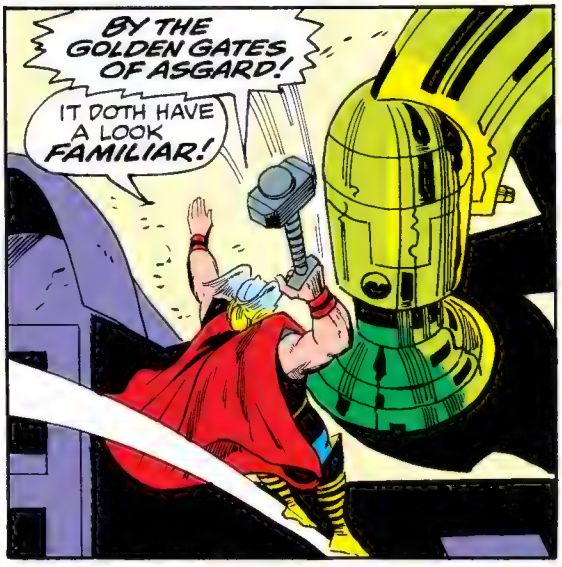
GOD OF THUNDER ...NOW, AND FORE'ER!!
SO BE IT!

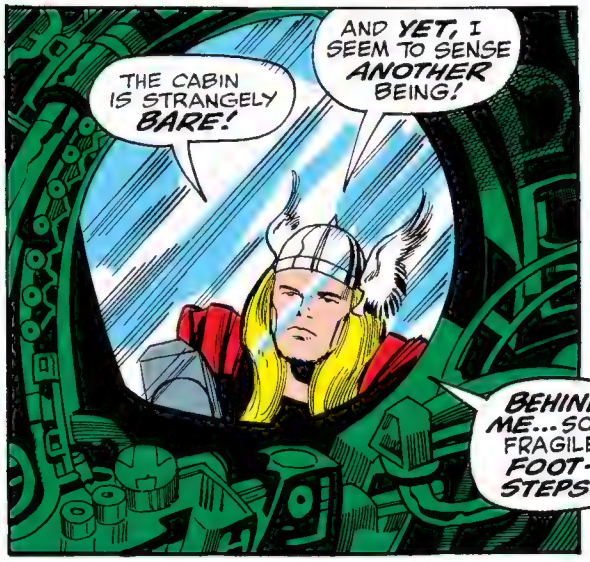
THOR
12¢
IND.
160
JAN
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL
AND NOW..
GALACTUS!

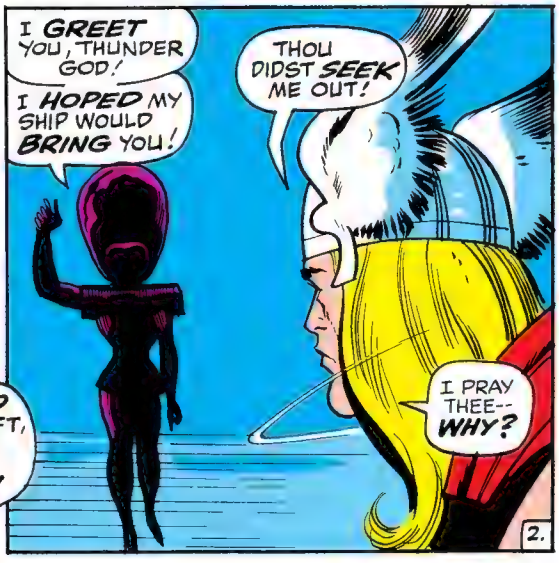

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
AND NOW...
GALACTUS!
AN OBJECT FROM SPACE HATH LANDED ON YONDER ROOFTOP!
'TIS FITTING THAT THE GOD OF THUNDER HASTEN TO THE SITE!
SO STARTS A STAGGERING NEW SAGA BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
FEATURING: THE FANTASTIC RECORDER! THE LIVING PLANET EGO! THE OUTER-SPACE COLONIZERS!
...AND MANY MORE SURPRISES..

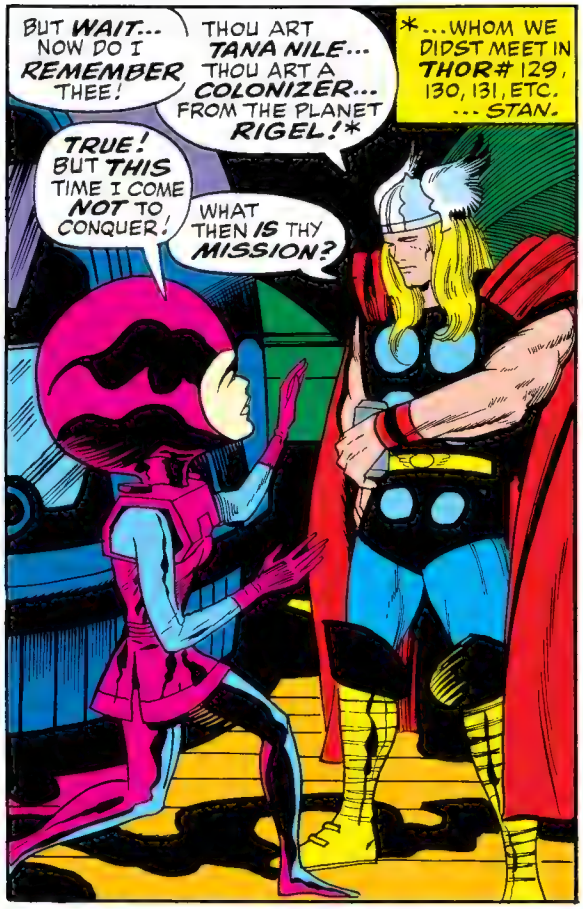

DUE TO ITS CONTROLLED MANNER OF FLIGHT...
I SUSPECT IT IS MORE THAN A FLYING PIECE OF SPACE DEBRIS!
METHINKS IT IS, IN TRUTH... A VESSEL FROM THE STARS!


MINE EYES HAVE NOT DECEIVED ME!
'TIS A SPACE SHIP INDEED!

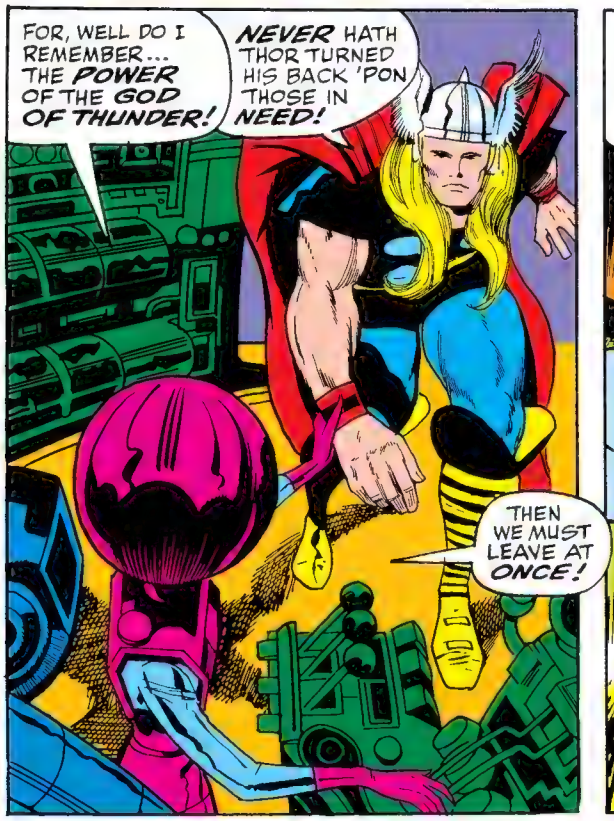

BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD!
IT DOTH HAVE A LOOK FAMILIAR!


THE CABIN IS STRANGELY BARE!
AND YET, I SEEM TO SENSE ANOTHER BEING!
BEHIND ME... SOFT, FRAGILE FOOT-STEPS!

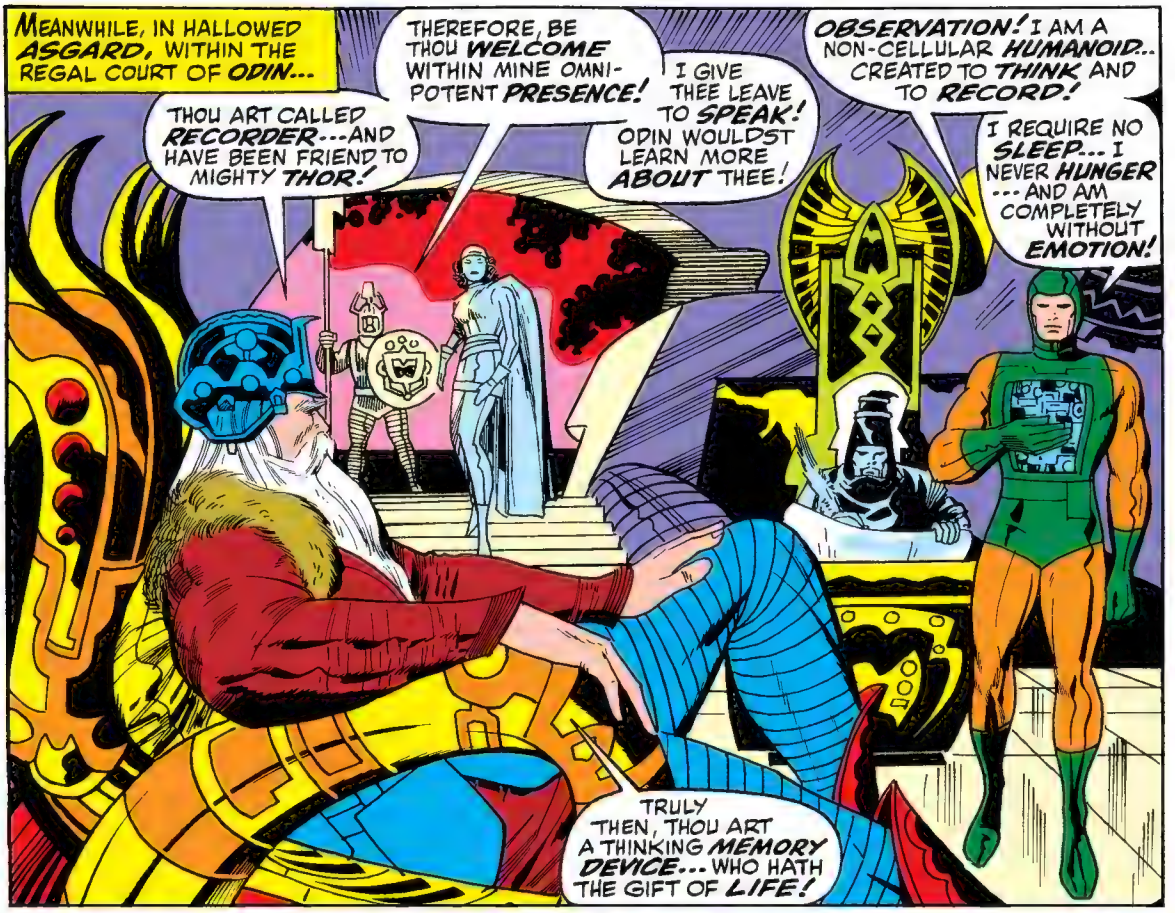

I GREET YOU, THUNDER GOD!
I HOPED MY SHIP WOULD BRING YOU!
THOU DIDST SEEK ME OUT!
I PRAY THEE-- WHY?
2.

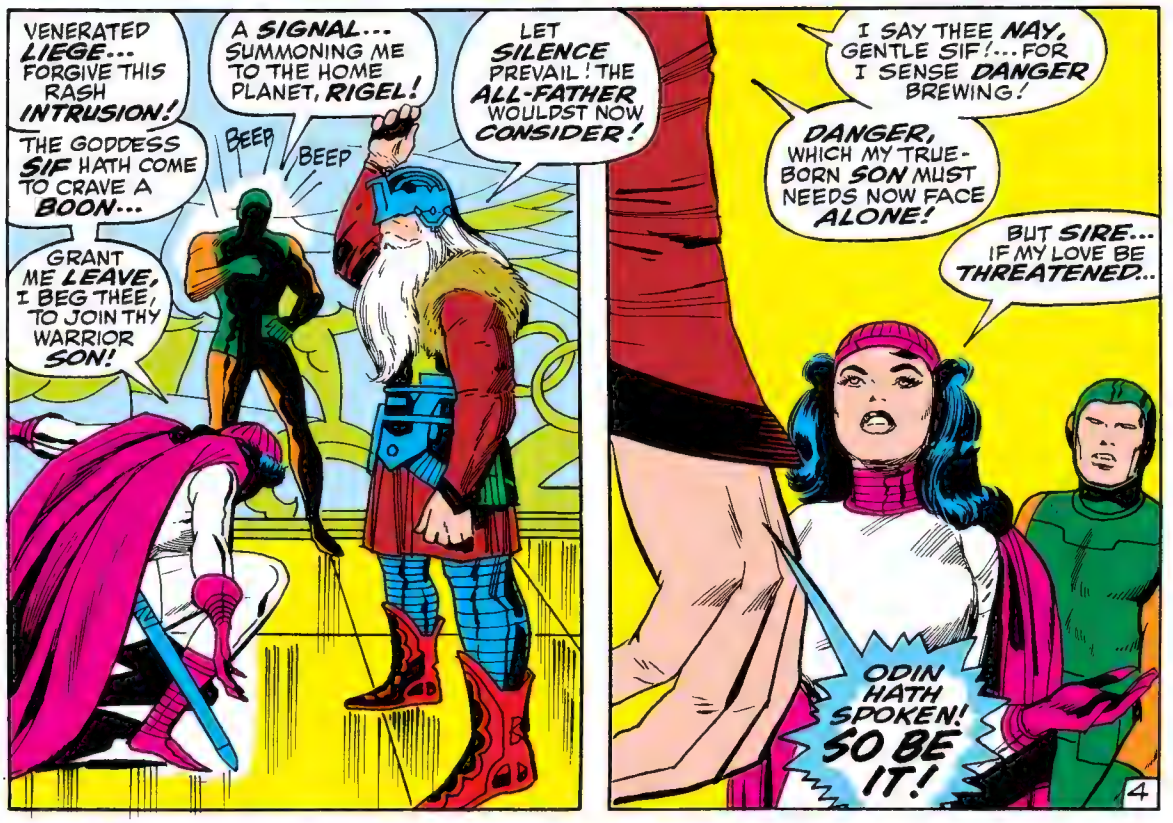

BUT WAIT... NOW DO I REMEMBER THEE!
THOU ART TANA NILE... THOU ART A COLONIZER... FROM THE PLANET RIGEL!*
*...WHOM WE DIDST MEET IN THOR# 129, 130, 131, ETC. --- STAN.
TRUE! BUT THIS TIME I COME NOT TO CONQUER!
WHAT THEN IS THY MISSION?

THERE IS GRAVE DANGER TO THE GALAXIES!
DANGER... WHICH THREATENS MANY WORLDS! THE WORLD OF RIGEL... AND ITS NEIGHBORING STAR CLUSTERS!
DANGER WHICH... IF IT IS NOT CHECKED... CAN CAUSE THE UNIVERSE ITSELF TO CRUMBLE!
AND NONE BUT YOU CAN FIGHT IT!


FOR, WELL DO I REMEMBER... THE POWER OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!
NEVER HATH THOR TURNED HIS BACK 'PON THOSE IN NEED!
THEN WE MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!

BUT, IF THIS BE SOME SORDID SCHEME, WHEREIN TO TRICK THE SON OF ODIN... TAKE WARNING, WENCH---!
NAY! I DECEIVE YOU NOT!
THE THREAT IS REAL---AND ALL TOO DEADLY!


MEANWHILE, IN HALLOWED ASGARD, WITHIN THE REGAL COURT OF ODIN...
THOU ART CALLED RECORDER---AND HAVE BEEN FRIEND TO MIGHTY THOR!
THEREFORE, BE THOU WELCOME WITHIN MINE OMNI-POTENT PRESENCE!
I GIVE THEE LEAVE TO SPEAK! ODIN WOULDST LEARN MORE ABOUT THEE!
OBSERVATION! I AM A NON-CELLULAR HUMANOID... CREATED TO THINK AND TO RECORD!
I REQUIRE NO SLEEP... I NEVER HUNGER --- AND AM COMPLETELY WITHOUT EMOTION!
TRULY THEN, THOU ART A THINKING MEMORY DEVICE... WHO HATH THE GIFT OF LIFE!


VENERATED LIEGE... FORGIVE THIS RASH INTRUSION!
A SIGNAL... SUMMONING ME TO THE HOME PLANET, RIGEL!
LET SILENCE PREVAIL! THE ALL-FATHER WOULDST NOW CONSIDER!
BEEP
BEEP
THE GODDESS SIF HATH COME TO CRAVE A BOON...
GRANT ME LEAVE, I BEG THEE, TO JOIN THY WARRIOR SON!
I SAY THEE NAY, GENTLE SIF!... FOR I SENSE DANGER BREWING!
DANGER, WHICH MY TRUE-BORN SON MUST NEEDS NOW FACE ALONE!
BUT SIRE... IF MY LOVE BE THREATENED...
ODIN HATH SPOKEN! SO BE IT!
4

BUT, MY LORD... IN THINE INFINITE WISDOM...
FEMALE, DESIST! NOT EVEN THEE MAY TRY THE ROYAL PATIENCE!
NOW, HOW SPEAKETH THEE, RECORDER?
THE TIME IS COME! I MUST DEPART!
TRULY THERE IS DANGER NIGH!
THEN LEAVE ME, ALL!
THE AUDIENCE NOW IS ENDED!
MOST STRANGE AND SOMBER TASKS DO LIE BEFORE US!
WAIT! WHAT IS THE DANGER OF WHICH THOU SPOKE?
I DARED NOT ANSWER!
'TIS BEST SHE DOES NOT KNOW!
FOR, SO AWESOME IS THE DEADLY THREAT...
...MY VERY LIPS ARE LOATHE TO GIVE IT MOUTHING!
5

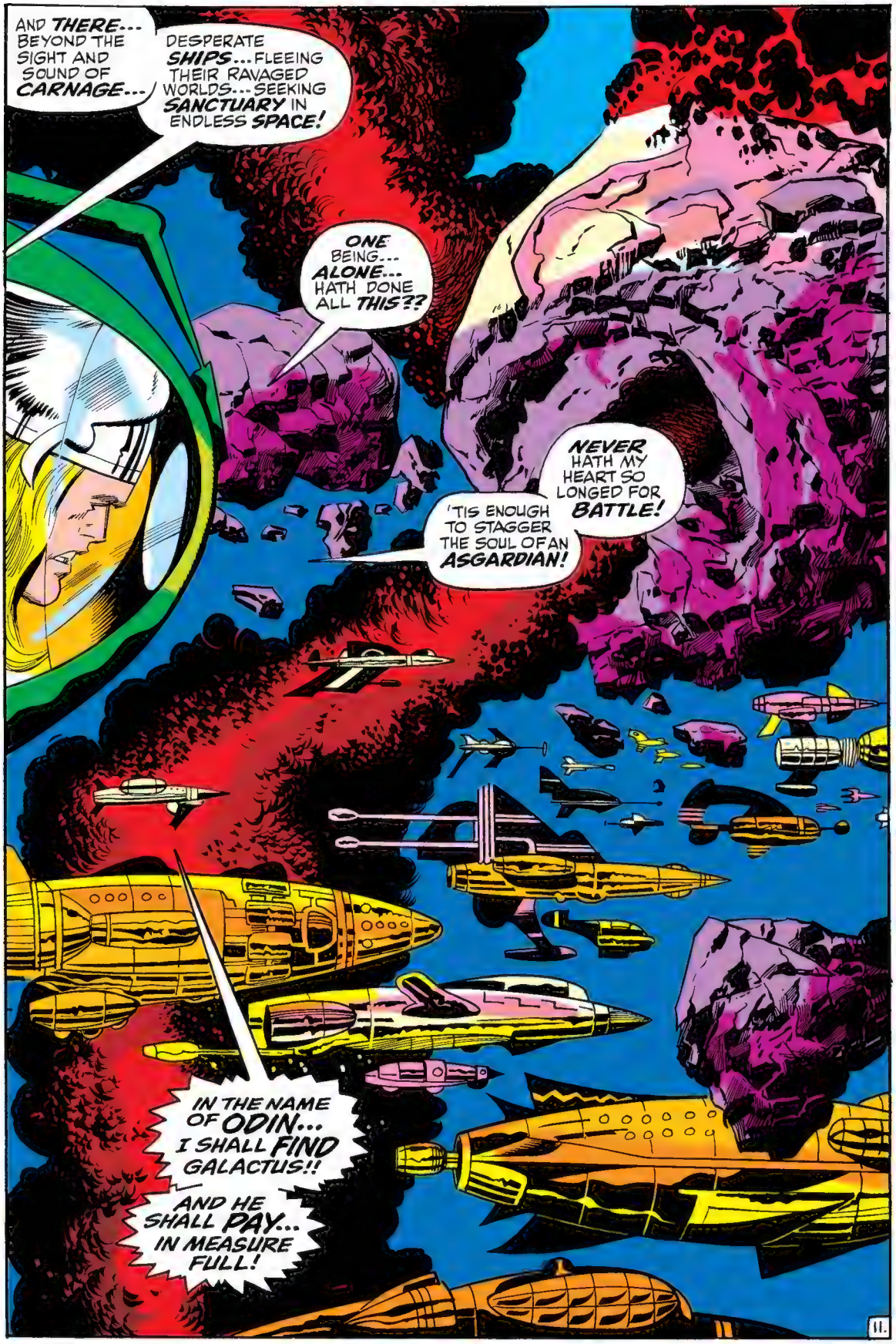
HOW CAN SPEECH ALONE CONVEY THE DIRE MENACE OF...
HE WHO IS CALLED...
GALACTUS!!

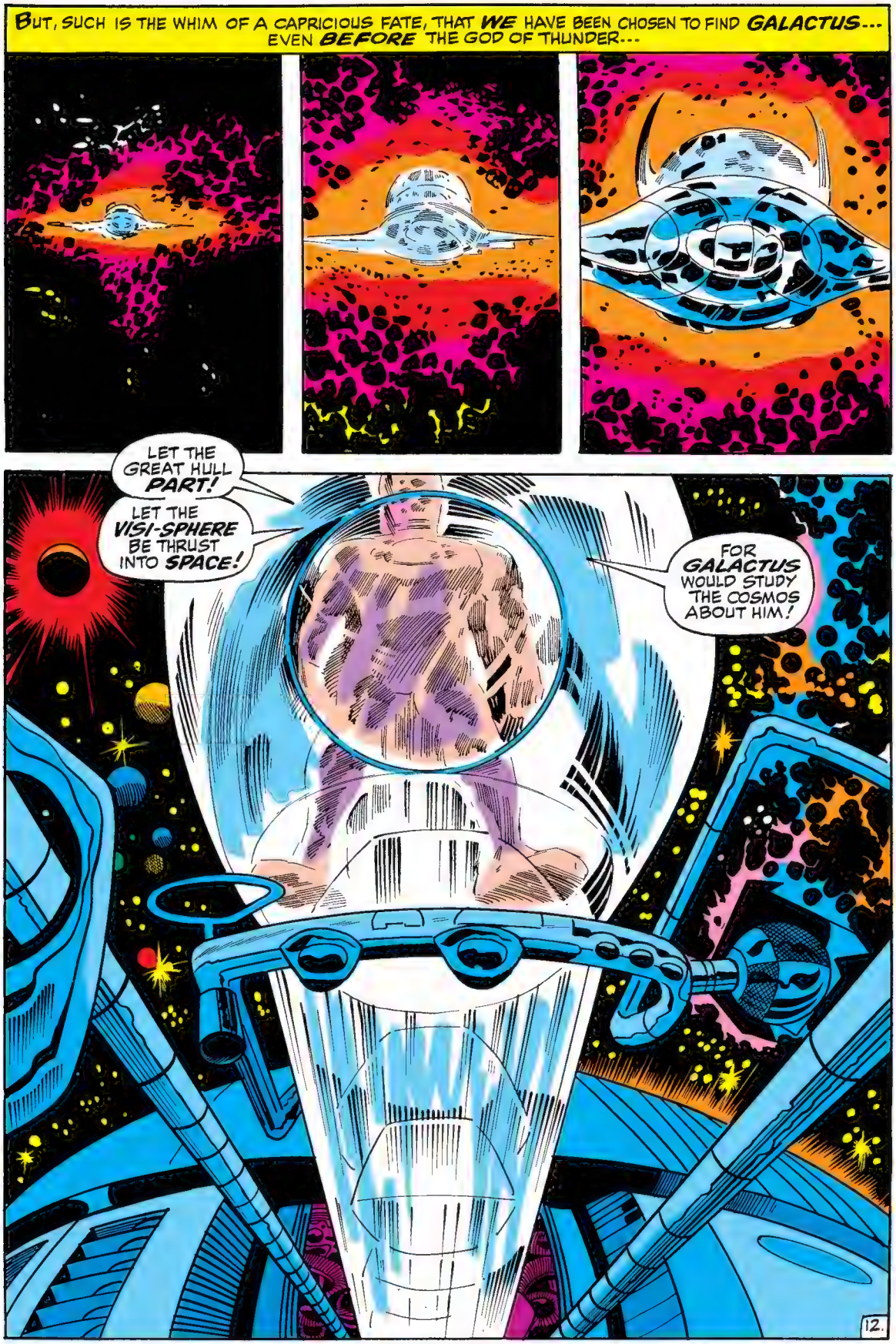
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN ANOTHER SECTOR OF THE ENDLESS COSMOS--- A GRIM-FACED IMMORTAL IS ALSO TOLD ABOUT THE DREAD PLANET-DESTROYER NAMED--- GALACTUS---
TO SUCH AS HE, THERE IS NO GOOD--- THERE IS NO EVIL!
HE LIVES... HE HUNGERS.. AND HE MUST FEED---
BUT ONLY THE ENERGY OF LIVING WORLDS CAN NOURISH HIM!
COLONIZER, I HAVE HEARD HIS NAME!
BUT, EVER DID I THINK IT LEGEND!
IF THY TALE BE TRUE, THEN SURELY MUST HE FACE THE MIGHT OF THOR!
AND YET, FROM WHAT THOU HAST RELATED...
HIS POWER MAY BE GREATER STILL!
AND, IF SUCH BE SO, THEN WOE TO THE UNIVERSE, FOR...
WOMAN!! WHAT HATH BEFALLEN??
SOMETHING... HAS STRUCK... THE SHIP!!
A MIGHTY POUNDING DOTH ASSAIL MINE EARS!
IT COMES CLOSER... EVER CLOSER!
7.

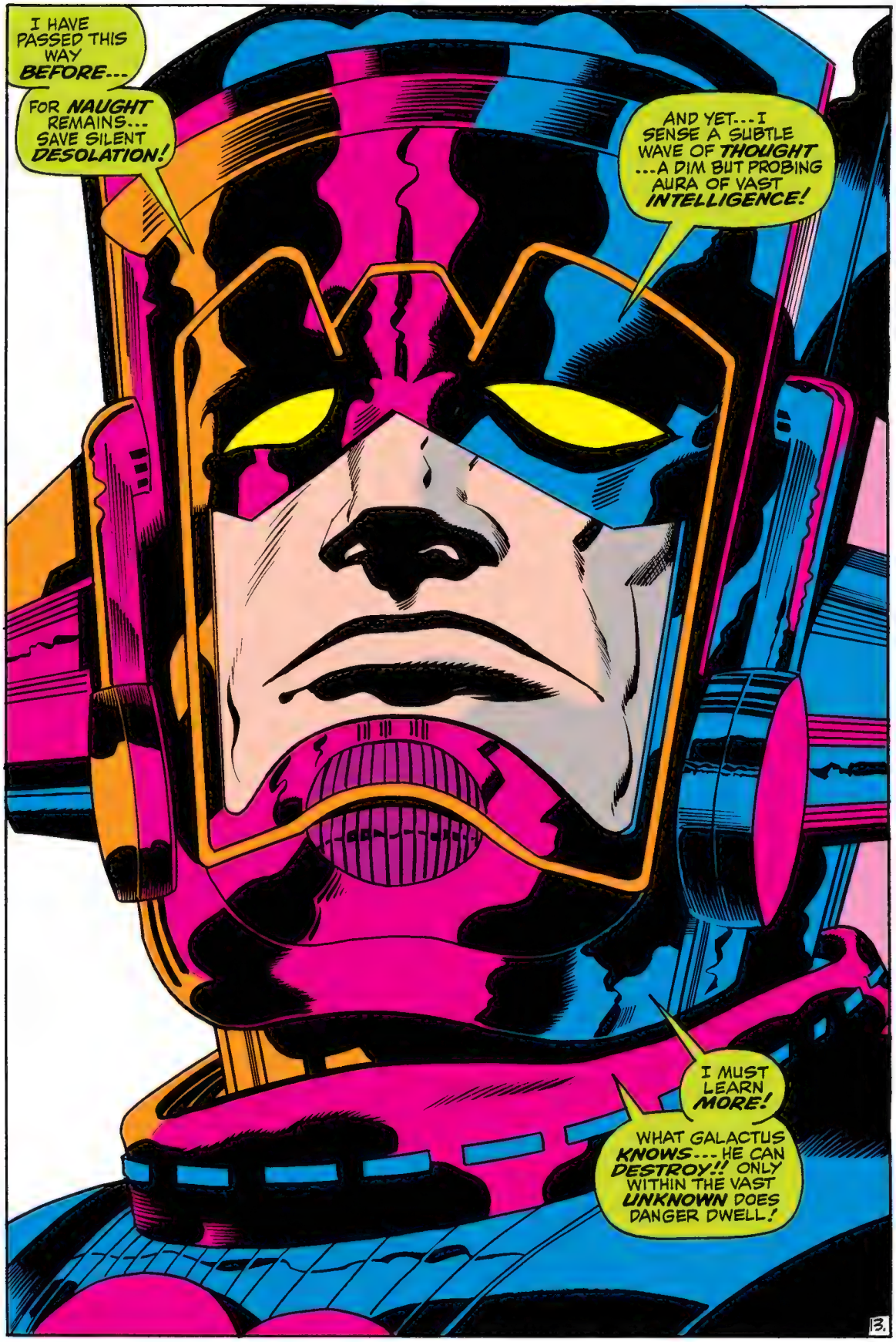
A GIANT ARM HATH SMASHED ITS WAY INTO THY SHIP!
COLONIZER!! BE THAT GALACTUS??
NAY! NOT SO!
CRASH!
'TIS BUT A LONE TAURIAN!
A RAGING SURVIVOR OF A WORLD WHICH GALACTUS DID CRUSH!
TAKE HEED, INTRUDER!
STAND THEE BACK ...OR BEAR THE BRUNT OF MIGHTY MJOLNIR!
YOUR SHIP!! I MUST HAVE YOUR SHIP!
HE WILL NOT STOP! HE CANNOT STOP!
THE MAD-NESS IS UPON HIM!
THEN TAKE THEE COVER! HE NOW ATTACKS!
THOR--- TAKE WARNING! THE PLANET TAURUS HAD THE HEAVIEST PULL OF GRAVITY IN ALL THE SECTOR!
HIS STRENGTH CAN WITHSTAND ALMOST ANY BLOW--- INCLUDING YOURS!
YOU DARE ATTACK ONE WHO CAN WALK THRU MOUNTAINS??
HE STOPS MY THRUST WITH BUT ONE HAND!
8

IF PHYSICAL STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH...
I POSSESS A WEAPON THAT MAY YET PREVAIL...!!
NOW... FEEL THE POWER OF A NAKED RIGELIAN MIND BLAST!
IT WAS TO NO AVAIL! HIS HELMET SHIELDED HIM!
AND NOW ...I STAND DEFENSELESS!
NOT SO!!
NONE WHO ARE RIGHTEOUS E'ER SHALL STAND WITHOUT DEFENSE...
NOT WHILST THOR DOTH LIVE!
NOW THAT I HAVE TAKEN THE MEASURE OF YON TAURIAN...
I FEEL NO NEED MY BLOW TO SOFTEN--
--AS I HAVE DONE 'GAINST WEAKER FOES!
9.

LOOK YOU, TANA NILE!
I HAVE REMOVED HIS HEAD-PIECE!
THEN THE DANGER IS PAST!
I CAN CONTROL HIM WITH A SIMPLE MIND BLAST!
BUT HARK! HE SEEKS TO SPEAK---!
MERCY, MIGHTY ONE!
I...MEANT THEE... NO HARM!
MY WORLD HAS BEEN SHATTERED --- MY PEOPLE GONE!
I KNOW NOT WHAT POSSESSED ME!
'TWAS ALL THE DOING OF... GALACTUS!
HE IS MORE TO BE PITIED THAN PUNISHED!
THOR!
WE APPROACH THE ZONE OF DESO-LATION!
LOOK... WITHIN THE VIEWER... SEE WHAT GALACTUS HAS WROUGHT!
SPACE DEBRIS... AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!
SCATTERED REMNANTS FROM ONCE-LIVING WORLDS!

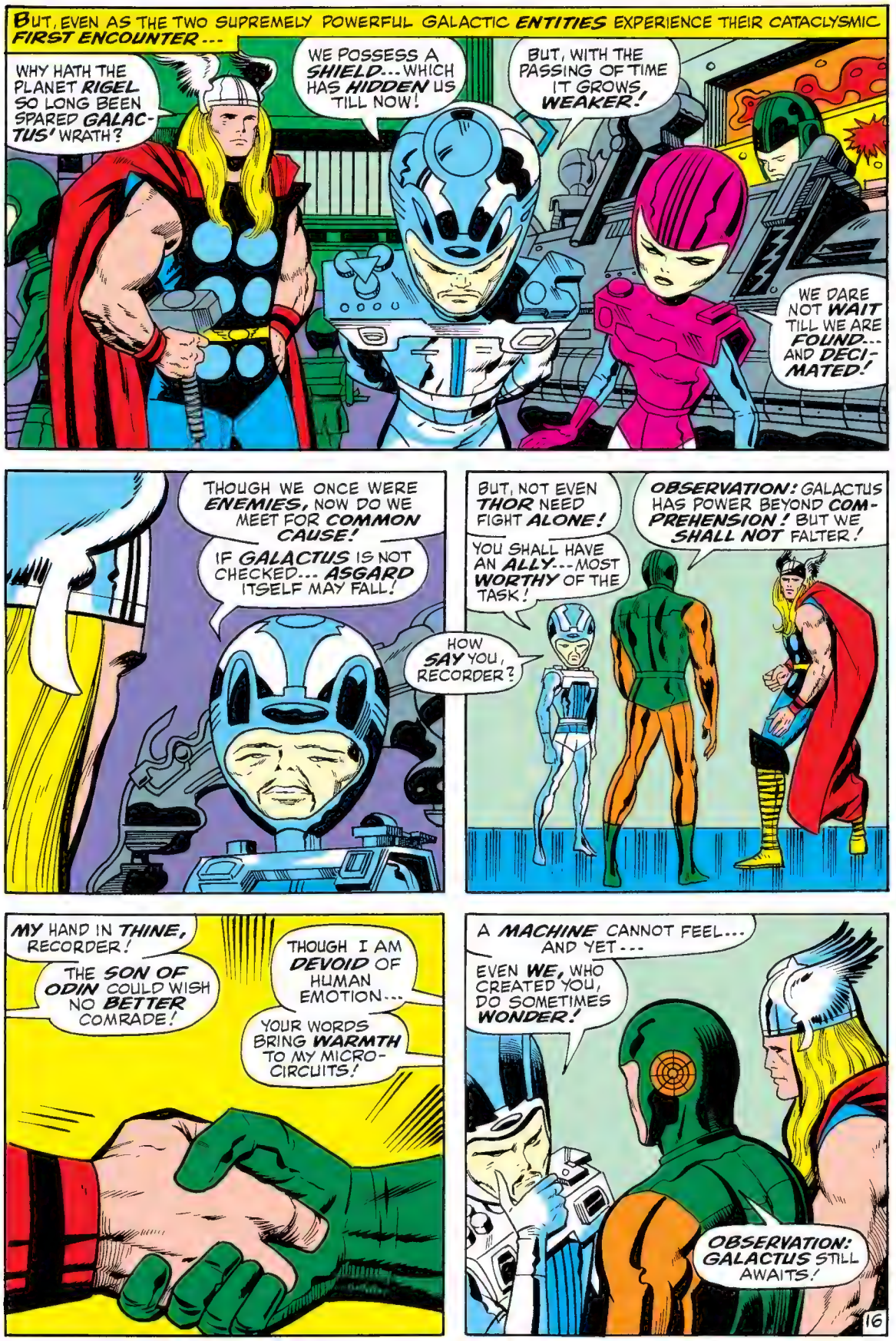

AND THERE... BEYOND THE SIGHT AND SOUND OF CARNAGE...
DESPERATE SHIPS... FLEEING THEIR RAVAGED WORLDS... SEEKING SANCTUARY IN ENDLESS SPACE!
ONE BEING... ALONE... HATH DONE ALL THIS??
'TIS ENOUGH TO STAGGER THE SOUL OF AN ASGARDIAN!
NEVER HATH MY HEART SO LONGED FOR BATTLE!
IN THE NAME OF ODIN... I SHALL FIND GALACTUS!!
AND HE SHALL PAY... IN MEASURE FULL!

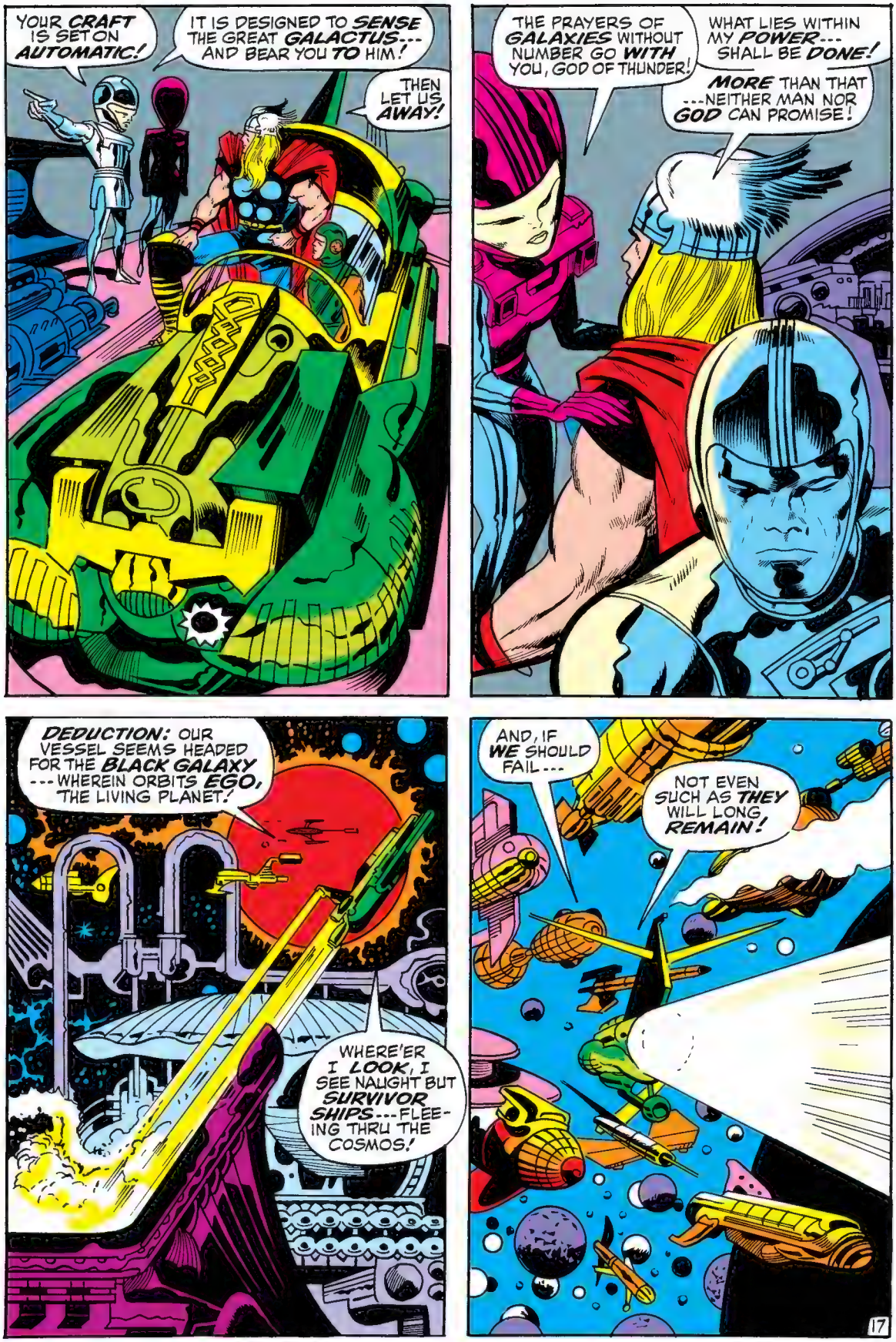

BUT, SUCH IS THE WHIM OF A CAPRICIOUS FATE, THAT WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO FIND GALACTUS--- EVEN BEFORE THE GOD OF THUNDER---
LET THE GREAT HULL PART!
LET THE VISI-SPHERE BE THRUST INTO SPACE!
FOR GALACTUS WOULD STUDY THE COSMOS ABOUT HIM!
12.


I HAVE PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE---
FOR NAUGHT REMAINS... SAVE SILENT DESOLATION!
AND YET...I SENSE A SUBTLE WAVE OF THOUGHT ...A DIM BUT PROBING AURA OF VAST INTELLIGENCE!
I MUST LEARN MORE!
WHAT GALACTUS KNOWS---HE CAN DESTROY!! ONLY WITHIN THE VAST UNKNOWN DOES DANGER DWELL!
13.

AT THE GALAXY'S PERIMETER ---A DARK SHAPE FORMS---
IT FIRES BOLTS OF FORCE! IT SEEKS TO SLAY ME!
NEVER HAVE MY EYES BEHELD INSOLENCE SO GREAT---SO ABYSMAL!
I KNOW NOT WHO MY FOE MAY BE---
BUT HE MUST BE SWIFTLY BROUGHT TO TASK!
NONE HAVE CAUSE TO ATTACK GALACTUS!
GALACTUS BEARS MALICE TO NO LIVING BEING!
I ONLY SLAY THAT I MAY SURVIVE!
LIKE ALL WHO LIVE---I MUST HAVE FOOD--- I MUST NOT STARVE!
AM I TO BE FAULTED FOR THE APPETITE I BEAR?
THE BIG... AND THE SMALL ---EAT WHAT WE MUST...
AS FOR GALACTUS --- NAUGHT BUT A WORLD CAN ASSUAGE HIS GNAWING HUNGER!
BUT WAIT!! WHAT WONDER-MENT NOW LOOMS AHEAD..??

EGO!! THE LONG-HIDDEN LIVING PLANET!
SO!! ALTHOUGH I SOUGHT TO CONCEAL MYSELF...
GALACTUS HAS FOUND ME...AT LAST!


BUT, EVEN AS THE TWO SUPREMELY POWERFUL GALACTIC ENTITIES EXPERIENCE THEIR CATACLYSMIC FIRST ENCOUNTER ---
WHY HATH THE PLANET RIGEL SO LONG BEEN SPARED GALACTUS' WRATH?
WE POSSESS A SHIELD... WHICH HAS HIDDEN US TILL NOW!
BUT, WITH THE PASSING OF TIME IT GROWS, WEAKER!
WE DARE NOT WAIT TILL WE ARE FOUND... AND DECIMATED!
THOUGH WE ONCE WERE ENEMIES, NOW DO WE MEET FOR COMMON CAUSE!
IF GALACTUS IS NOT CHECKED... ASGARD ITSELF MAY FALL!
HOW SAY YOU, RECORDER?
BUT, NOT EVEN THOR NEED FIGHT ALONE!
YOU SHALL HAVE AN ALLY... MOST WORTHY OF THE TASK!
OBSERVATION: GALACTUS HAS POWER BEYOND COMPREHENSION! BUT WE SHALL NOT FALTER!
MY HAND IN THINE, RECORDER!
THE SON OF ODIN COULD WISH NO BETTER COMRADE!
THOUGH I AM DEVOID OF HUMAN EMOTION...
YOUR WORDS BRING WARMTH TO MY MICRO-CIRCUITS!
A MACHINE CANNOT FEEL... AND YET ---
EVEN WE, WHO CREATED YOU, DO SOMETIMES WONDER!
OBSERVATION: GALACTUS STILL AWAITS!


YOUR CRAFT IS SET ON AUTOMATIC!
IT IS DESIGNED TO SENSE THE GREAT GALACTUS--- AND BEAR YOU TO HIM!
THEN LET US AWAY!
THE PRAYERS OF GALAXIES WITHOUT NUMBER GO WITH YOU, GOD OF THUNDER!
WHAT LIES WITHIN MY POWER--- SHALL BE DONE!
MORE THAN THAT ---NEITHER MAN NOR GOD CAN PROMISE!
DEDUCTION: OUR VESSEL SEEMS HEADED FOR THE BLACK GALAXY ---WHEREIN ORBITS EGO, THE LIVING PLANET!
WHERE'ER I LOOK, I SEE NAUGHT BUT SURVIVOR SHIPS---FLEEING THRU THE COSMOS!
AND, IF WE SHOULD FAIL---
NOT EVEN SUCH AS THEY WILL LONG REMAIN!
17

OBSERVATION! ONE OF THE SURVIVOR SHIPS HAS CHANGED COURSE!
IT APPEARS TO FOLLOW US!
NO MATTER! WE DARE NOT BE STAYED FROM OUR APPOINTED TASK!
WHILE, WITHIN THE PURSUING SPACE CRAFT...
OF ALL WHO FLEE--- ONLY ONE HAS A SENSE OF PURPOSE--- OF DESTINATION!
THEN IT MUST BE FOLLOWED...
AYE! THE SHIP MAY LEAD US TO A WORLD OF SANCTUARY!
FELLOW WANDERERS--- ATTEND MY WORDS!
WE ARE SO NAMED, FOR WE WERE THE FIRST OF GALACTUS' VICTIMS!
AND, FOR UNTOLD AGES WE HAVE WANDERED THRU SPACE, SEEKING OUR MOMENT OF... REVENGE!!
YEA, IF NEED BE...WE SHALL WANDER TILL THE END OF TIME---
BUT NEVER DO WE ABANDON OUR QUEST!
18

NOW, ONE SHIP HAVE WE SPIED... WHICH HEADS FOR A WORLD UNKNOWN!
I SAY WE FOLLOW... AND FATE SHALL BE OUR GUIDE!
HOW VOTE YOU, FELLOW WANDERERS??
'TIS GOOD! THE VOTE IS AYE!
AND, AS THE SCRAMBLED PIECES OF THE GREAT, GALACTIC JIG-SAW PUZZLE FALL SLOWLY INTO PLACE---
TURN YOU BACK, GALACTUS!
HERE, I AM THE WILL ...AND I AM THE POWER!!
YOU SPEAK TO ME OF... POWER???!
YOU ARE BUT A SENTIENT BIOVERSE!
THOUGH YOU DO TRULY LIVE... AND THINK... AND ACT...
STILL ARE YOU A PLANET...A GIANT GRAIN OF DUST WITHIN THE ENDLESS COSMOS!
WHILE I AM GALACTUS... WORLD MOVER AND WORLD RAVISHER!
I AM GALACTUS ...WHO CAN STRIKE WITH THE FIRE OF A THOUSAND SUNS!
19.

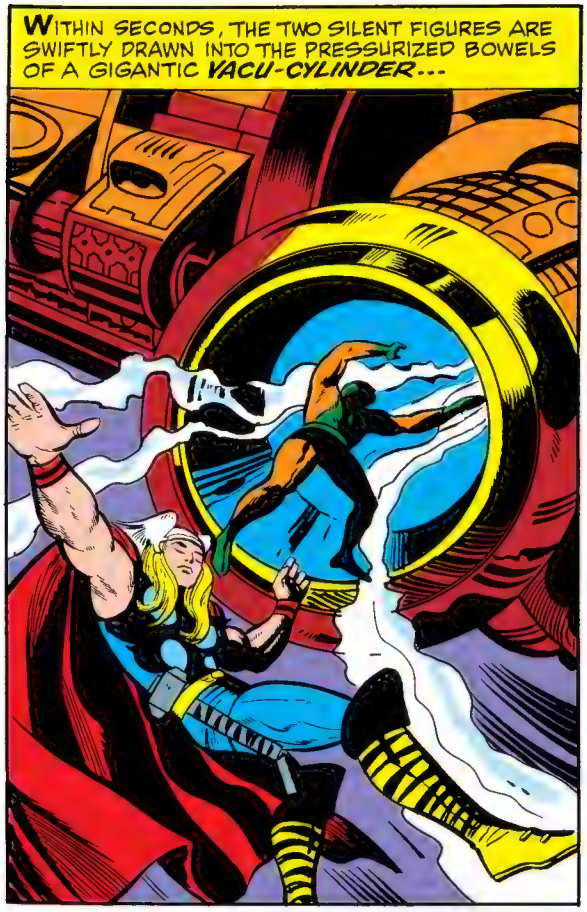
AND I AM EGO!
EGO... WHO CAN RING HIMSELF WITH A FORCE OF SOLID COLD... TO NULLIFY YOUR BLAST!
EGO, THE LIVING PLANET...
...WHOSE ATTACK CAN HARNESS THE POWER OF A TOTAL WORLD!!
POWER ENOUGH TO SHATTER THE LIFELESS PLANETOIDS AROUND ME!
CONCLUSION! A COSMIC CATASTROPHE HAS BEFALLEN!
OUR SPACE-CRAFT... IT CANNOT ENDURE THE STRESS... THE SHOCK!
IT SHATTERS... IN THE AIR-LESS VOID ABOUT US!
LIKE TWIGS IN A STORM, THE TWO HAPLESS FIGURES ARE HURLED INTO SPACE...
...TO SILENTLY DRIFT... IN AN ENDLESS VACUUM... UNTIL...
20.
NEXT
THE SOUND OF THUNDER!

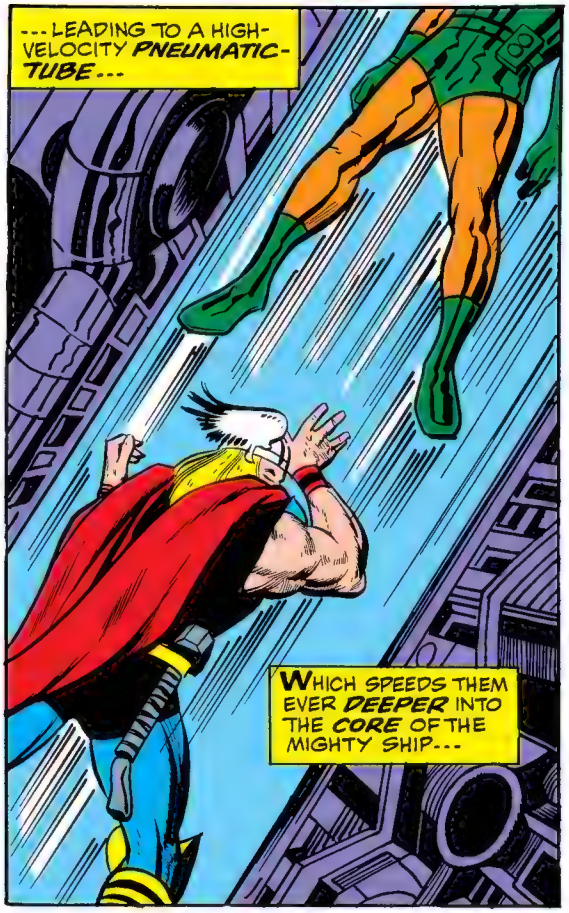
THOR
12¢
IND
161
FEB
THE MIGHTY
THOR
SHALL A GOD PREVAIL!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

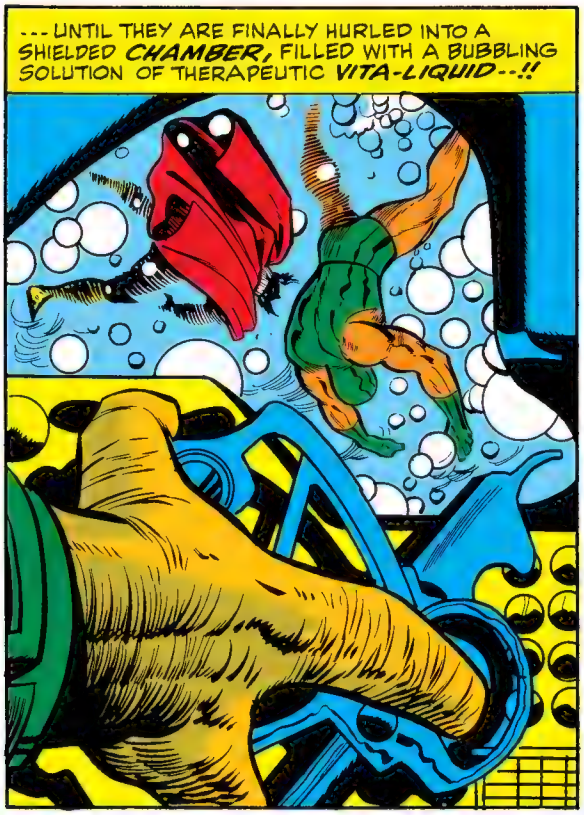
THE MIGHTY THOR!
SHALL A GOD PREVAIL?
SEARCHING FOR THE DREAD GALACTUS AMIDST THE LIMITLESS REACHES OF SPACE, MIGHTY THOR AND THE EMOTIONLESS RECORDER ARE HELPLESSLY FLUNG INTO AN AIRLESS VACUUM WHEN THEIR STARSHIP IS SHATTERED BY THE BATTLE BETWEEN GALACTUS AND THE LIVING PLANET EGO--!!
AND SO THEY DRIFT... SILENTLY--- ENDLESSLY... WHILE A UNIVERSE TOTTERS...!
PRODUCED and IMMORTALIZED BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN

BUT THEN, AS THUNDER GOD AND THINKING ANDROID ALIKE DRIFT AIMLESSLY THRU THE ICY, INKY EMPTINESS OF AIRLESS SPACE, A HOVERING STAR SHIP GLIDES EVER CLOSER---

LET THEM NOW BE BROUGHT ABOARD!
TWO THERE ARE WHO HAVE SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST!


WITHIN SECONDS, THE TWO SILENT FIGURES ARE SWIFTLY DRAWN INTO THE PRESSURIZED BOWELS OF A GIGANTIC VACU-CYLINDER---

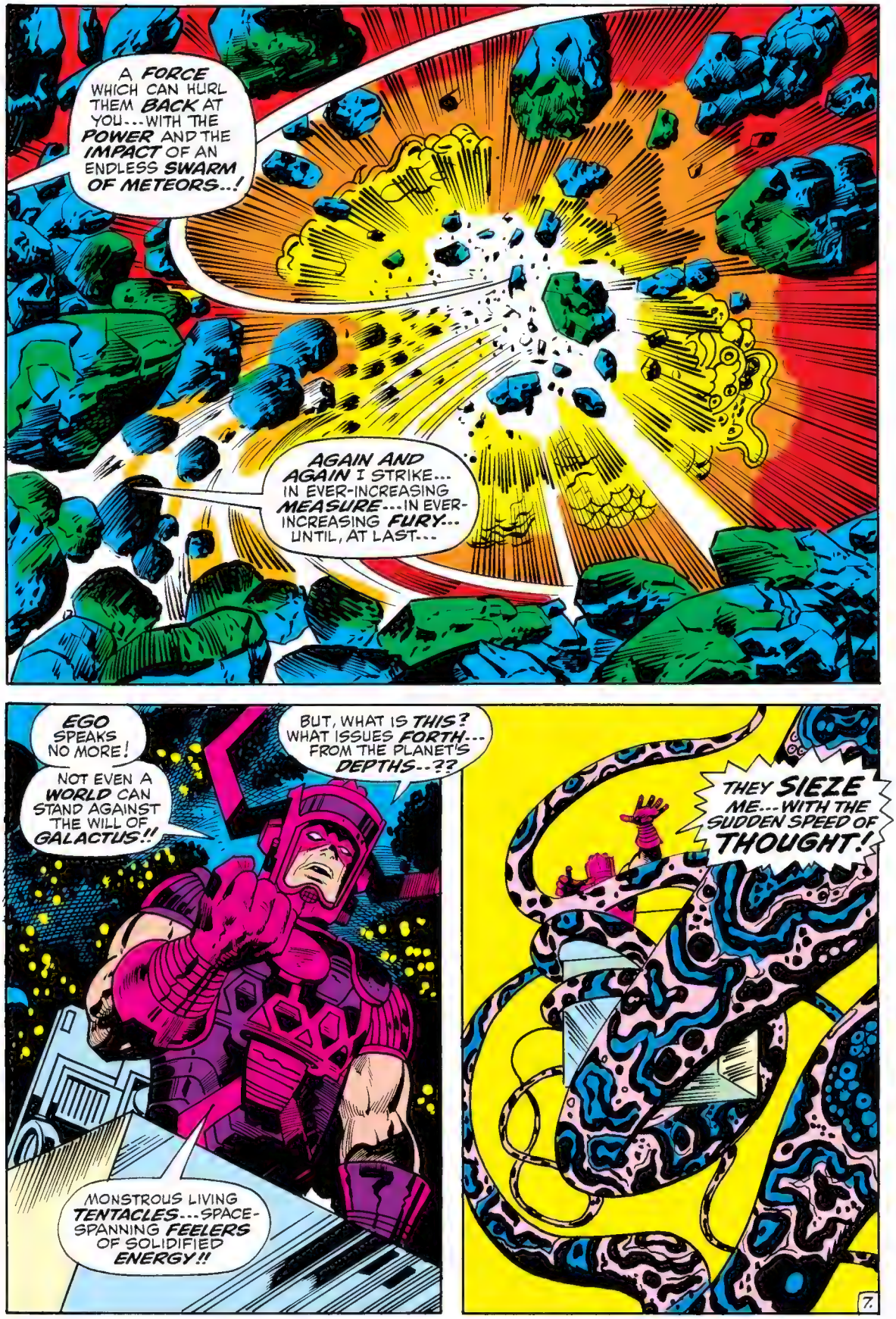

---LEADING TO A HIGH-VELOCITY PNEUMATIC-TUBE---
WHICH SPEEDS THEM EVER DEEPER INTO THE CORE OF THE MIGHTY SHIP---

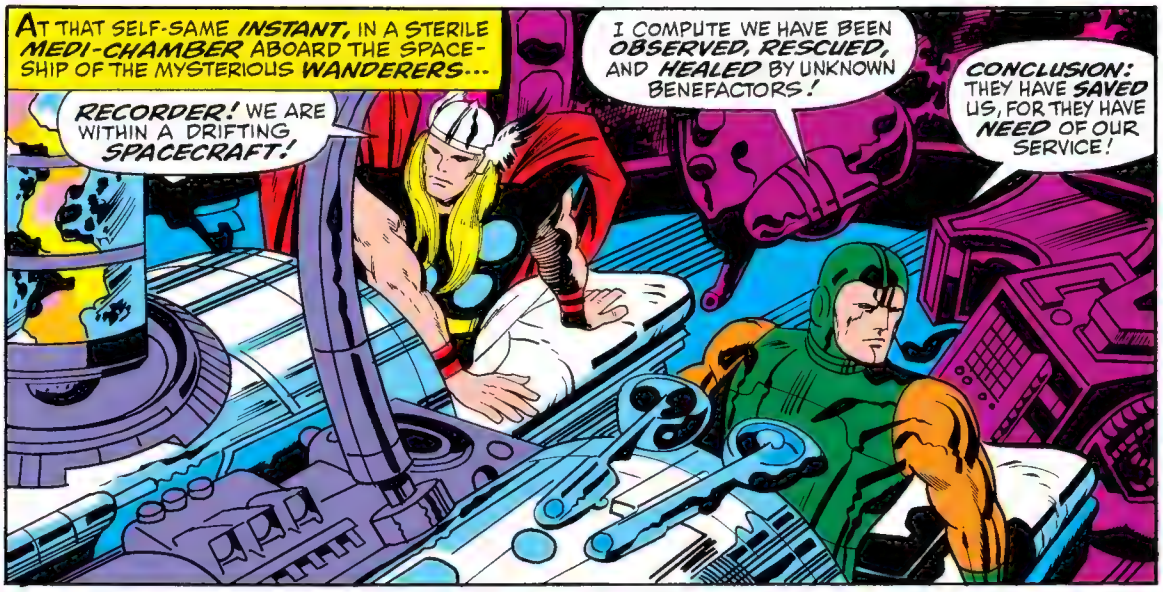

---UNTIL THEY ARE FINALLY HURLED INTO A SHIELDED CHAMBER, FILLED WITH A BUBBLING SOLUTION OF THERAPEUTIC VITA-LIQUID--!!

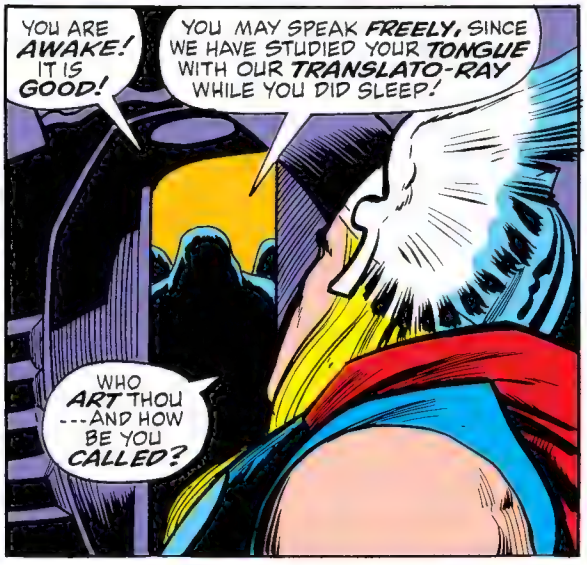
THEY MUST BE REVIVED! OF ALL THE SPACECRAFT IN THIS SECTOR---ONLY THEY HAD A DEFINITE DESTINATION!
TOO LONG HAVE WE BEEN AIMLESS WANDERERS!
WE SHALL MAKE THEIR GOAL---OUR OWN!
4

BUT NEVER BEFORE DID A GOAL SUCH AS THIS EXIST! NEVER BEFORE DID TWO SUCH MULTI-POWERED ENTITIES AS THE PLANET-DEVOURING GALACTUS, AND EGO, THE LIVING BIOVERSE, FACE EACH OTHER IN DESPERATE BATTLE--!
THOUGH YOU DEEM YOURSELF INVISIBLE WITHIN YOUR FLYING VISI-SPHERE...
STILL SHALL THE COSMIC DESTRUCTI-BLAST OF THE LIVING PLANET HURL YOU FROM ME LIKE A HAPLESS CHUNK OF SPACE DEBRIS!
5

NEVER BEFORE HAS GALACTUS FACED POWER INCALCULABLE SUCH AS THAT OF EGO!
BUT NEVER HAS THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH NOT BEEN MINE!
WHAT MADNESS DO YOU MOUTH?
YOU ARE BUT A SINGLE BEING--- AND I A WORLD ENTIRE!
THE WORDS YOU SPEAK ARE TRUE!
IN ALL OF SPACE--- I STAND ALONE!!
BUT, I HAVE NO NEED FOR AN ALLY...
FOR I AM GALACTUS!!
THE BE-ALL AND THE END-ALL AM I!
MINE IS THE POWER TO HARNESS THE ESSENCE OF SHATTERED PLANETOIDS --- AND DRAW THEM TOGETHER--- WITH A SINGLE BURST OF COSMIC MAGNI-FORCE---!
6


A FORCE WHICH CAN HURL THEM BACK AT YOU---WITH THE POWER AND THE IMPACT OF AN ENDLESS SWARM OF METEORS..!
AGAIN AND AGAIN I STRIKE... IN EVER-INCREASING MEASURE---IN EVER-INCREASING FURY... UNTIL, AT LAST---
EGO SPEAKS NO MORE!
NOT EVEN A WORLD CAN STAND AGAINST THE WILL OF GALACTUS!!
BUT, WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ISSUES FORTH--- FROM THE PLANET'S DEPTHS--??
MONSTROUS LIVING TENTACLES---SPACE-SPANNING FEELERS OF SOLIDIFIED ENERGY!!
THEY SIEZE ME---WITH THE SUDDEN SPEED OF THOUGHT!
7.


AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT, IN A STERILE MEDI-CHAMBER ABOARD THE SPACE-SHIP OF THE MYSTERIOUS WANDERERS...
RECORDER! WE ARE WITHIN A DRIFTING SPACECRAFT!
I COMPUTE WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVED, RESCUED, AND HEALED BY UNKNOWN BENEFACTORS!
CONCLUSION: THEY HAVE SAVED US, FOR THEY HAVE NEED OF OUR SERVICE!

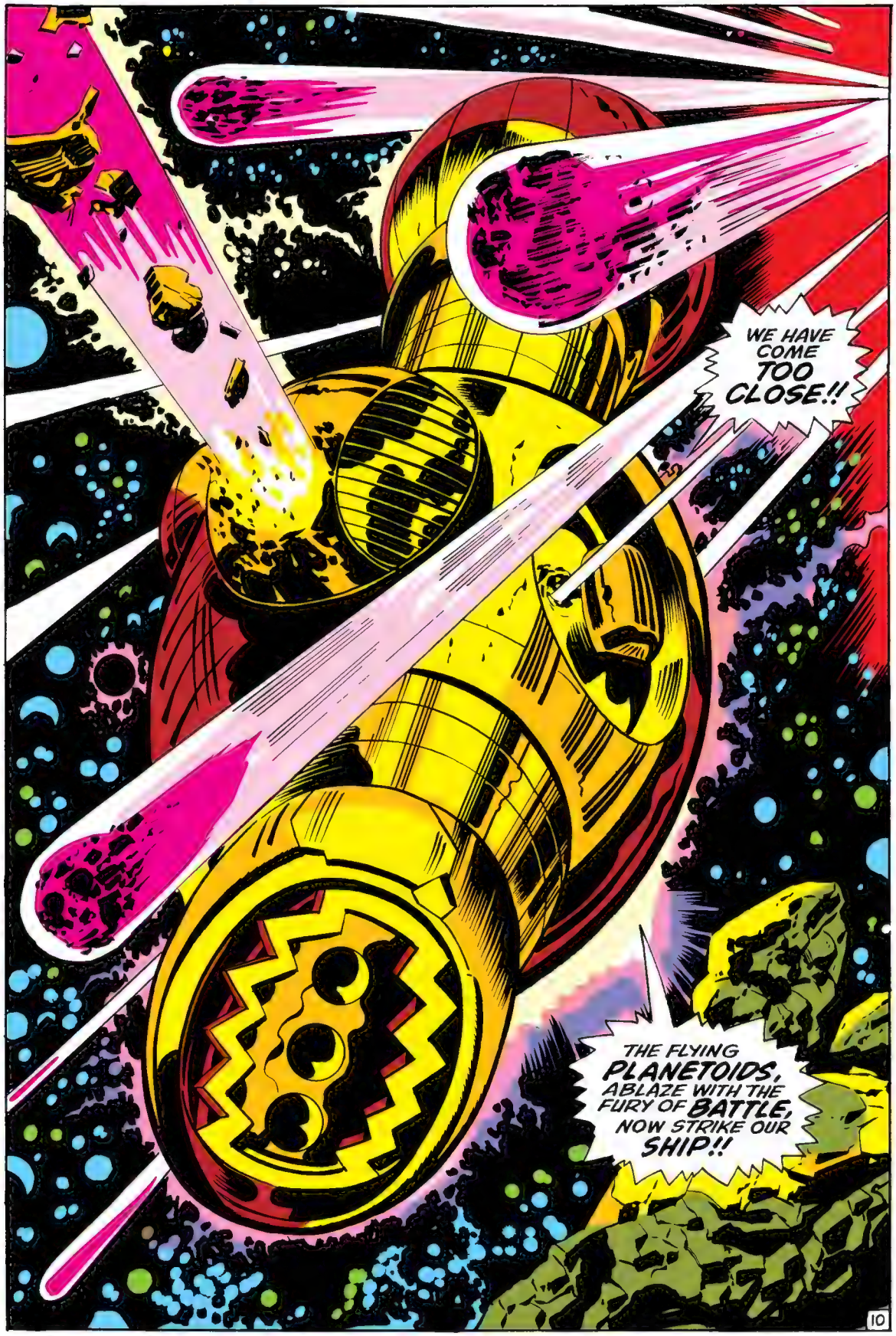

YOU ARE AWAKE! IT IS GOOD!
YOU MAY SPEAK FREELY, SINCE WE HAVE STUDIED YOUR TONGUE WITH OUR TRANSLATO-RAY WHILE YOU DID SLEEP!
WHO ART THOU ---AND HOW BE YOU CALLED?

WE ARE THE WANDERERS... SO NAMED BECAUSE WE HAVE WANDERED THE SPACEWAYS FOR AGES UNTOLD!
NEVER SHALL WE REST TILL WE HAVE FOUND GALACTUS... AND EXACTED DIRE VENGEANCE FOR THAT WHICH HE HAS DONE!

WE HAD BEEN FOLLOW-ING YOUR SHIP...HOPING YOU WOULD LEAD US TO OUR ACCURSED PREY!
OBSERVATION! YOU MUST ABANDON YOUR QUEST! HE IS TOO DEADLY! HE WILL DESTROY YOU!
HOW DO YOU SPEAK WITH SUCH CERTAINTY?
BECAUSE I AM---THE RECORDER!

I OBSERVE ALL... I RECORD ALL! AND, WHAT IS RECORDED, I DO COMPUTE!
SUCH IS MY FUNCTION... SUCH IS MY FATE!

I BE SON OF ODIN... IMMORTAL OF ASGARD..!
SAY NO MORE, GOD OF THUNDER! EVEN IN THE MOST REMOTE CORNER OF THE COSMOS, THE NAME OF THOR IS SPOKE IN WHISPERS!
WE BRING YOU NOW TO THE CHAMBER OF DECISION!
WANDERERS ALL! HEED YOU MY WORDS!
THE MIGHTY THOR SEEKS BATTLE WITH HIM WHO HAS SHATTERED OUR WORLD!
DOES THE SON OF ODIN FIGHT ALONE?
NOT SO!!
I DO LAUD THY VALOR... BUT FEAR FOR THY LIVES!
THOU ART BUT A HANDFUL... TO BE DISPOSED OF BY GALACTUS WITH NAUGHT BUT A SHRUG!
WHILST I, IN TRUTH, AM GOD OF THUNDER!!
BUT SUDDENLY, EVEN AS THE ASGARDIAN SPEAKS...
GALACTIC UPHEAVAL AHEAD!
TO YOUR STATIONS ALL!
WE HAVE FOUND GALACTUS!!
9.


WE HAVE COME TOO CLOSE!!
THE FLYING PLANETOIDS, ABLAZE WITH THE FURY OF BATTLE, NOW STRIKE OUR SHIP!!

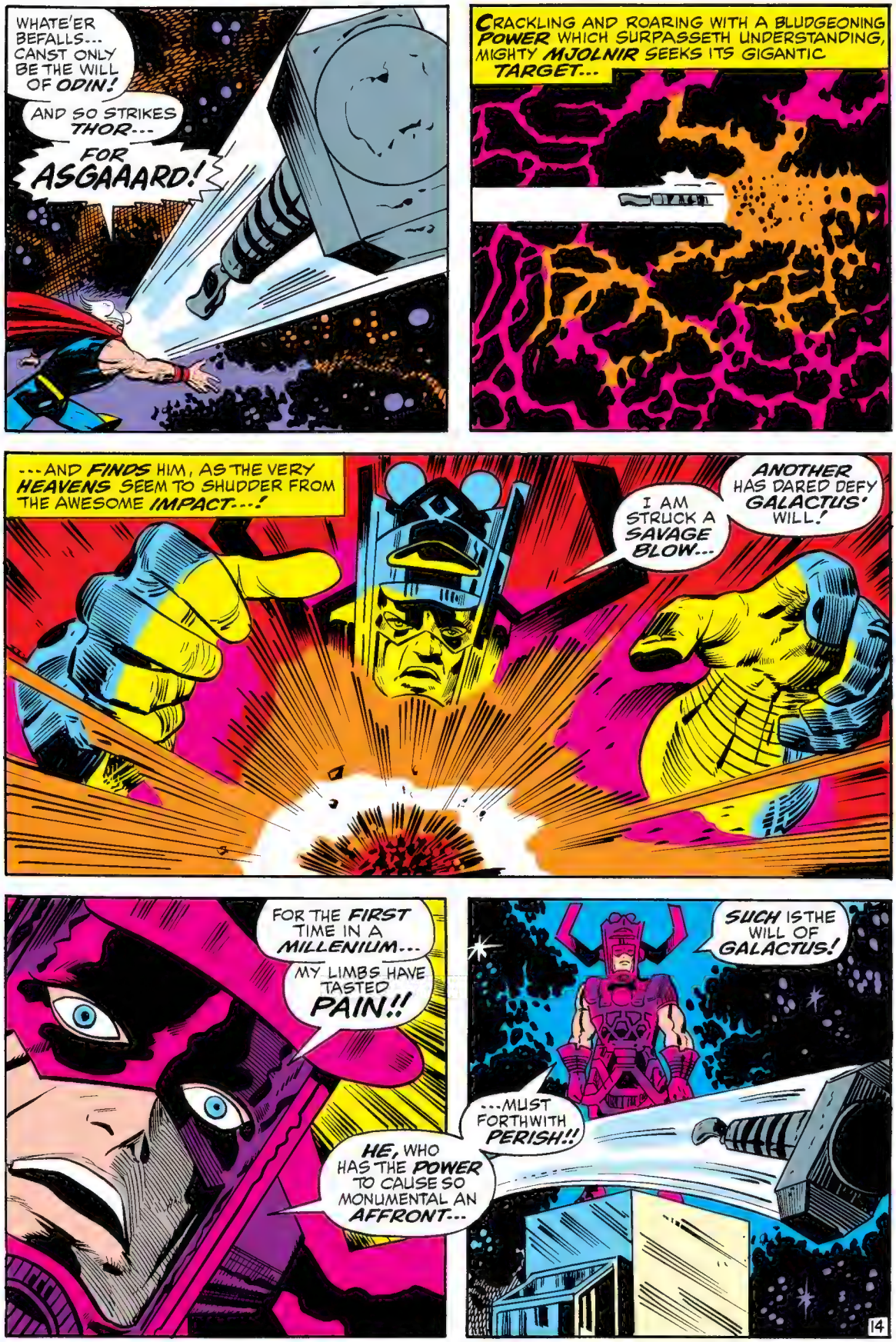
REVERSE THY COURSE!
THY SPACECRAFT MUST BE SAVED!
LET ALL WHO VALUE LIFE... MAKE HASTE!

WHILST WE, SILENT AND UNSEEN, PREPARE TO FACE THE FEARSOME FOE---!!
OBSERVATION! THE MOMENT IS NIGH! NOW LET A UNIVERSE TREMBLE!

DEDUCTION! YOU ARE THUNDER-STRUCK BY THE SIGHT THAT LOOMS BEFORE YOU!
I SWEAR BY ASGARD!!
NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LIKE!!

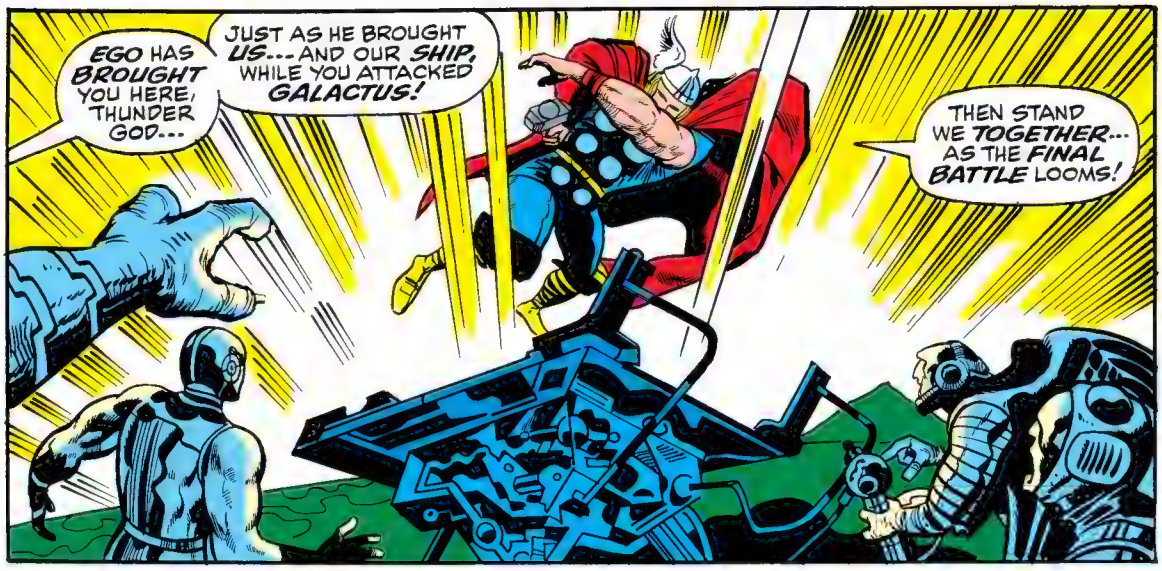
PLANET AND MAN... NOW LOCKED IN DEADLY STRUGGLE!
BUT, ERE THE BATTLE BE RESOLVED...
LET THUNDER GOD PREVAIL!!

NO LIVING TENTACLES, HOWEVER MONSTROUS, CAN BIND GALACTUS!
NOT WHILE I CAN LURE GREAT COMETS FROM THEIR PATH---
TO STRIKE AT YOU---UNTIL YOU FIGHT NO LONGER!
OBSERVATION! THE TIDE HAS TURNED! TRIUMPH IS WITHIN GALACTUS' REACH!
I SAY THEE NAY!
STAND BACK... WHILST THOR PREPARES TO ACT!
WHILST A UNIVERSE DOTH LIE AT STAKE... THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL NOT FAIL!
PERMA-CIRCUITS ACTIVATED FOR MAXIMUM RECORDING!
ALL THAT TRANSPIRES SHALL BE IMPRESSED UPON MY ELECTRONIC BRAIN!
BUT, SON OF ODIN... HAVE A CARE...
LET ME NOT RECORD ... YOUR DEATH!!
13.


WHATE'ER BEFALLS... CANST ONLY BE THE WILL OF ODIN!
AND SO STRIKES THOR...
FOR ASGAAARD!
CRACKLING AND ROARING WITH A BLUDGEONING POWER WHICH SURPASSETH UNDERSTANDING, MIGHTY MJOLNIR SEEKS ITS GIGANTIC TARGET...
...AND FINDS HIM, AS THE VERY HEAVENS SEEM TO SHUDDER FROM THE AWESOME IMPACT...!
I AM STRUCK A SAVAGE BLOW...
ANOTHER HAS DARED DEFY GALACTUS' WILL!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MILLENIUM...
MY LIMBS HAVE TASTED PAIN!!
HE, WHO HAS THE POWER TO CAUSE SO MONUMENTAL AN AFFRONT...
...MUST FORTHWITH PERISH!!
SUCH IS THE WILL OF GALACTUS!
14

HE STILL DOTH STAND!
NOT E'EN ENCHANTED MJOLNIR COULD FELL HIM WITH A SINGLE BLOW!
OBSERVATION! IF YOUR HAMMER FAILS---
NAUGHT SHALL REMAIN THAT I MAY RECORD!
BUT TIME AND AGAIN SHALL MJOLNIR STRIKE!
AND, WHERE IT DOTH FLY... FLIES THOR!
BY A HUMAN-FORM GNAT AM I BESET!
A GNAT MAYHAP...
...BUT WITH THE POWER OF A GOD!
15

SPEAK THE WORDS YOU WILL---IT MATTERS NOT TO ME!
IF SUCH AS YOU CAN BE A GOD---
THEN WHAT SHALL WE CALL THE GREAT GALACTUS??
WHAT NAME MUST BE GIVEN HIM WHO POSSESSES...
POWER ABSOLUTE!!
I AM HURLED TO YON LIVING PLANET WITH A FORCE THAT IS MEANT TO SLAY ME!
BUT ANOTHER FORCE DOTH STRANGELY RISE TO MEET ME--!
THE WORLD BELOW HATH MOVED TO STAY MY FALL!
16


EGO HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE, THUNDER GOD---
JUST AS HE BROUGHT US---AND OUR SHIP, WHILE YOU ATTACKED GALACTUS!
THEN STAND WE TOGETHER--- AS THE FINAL BATTLE LOOMS!

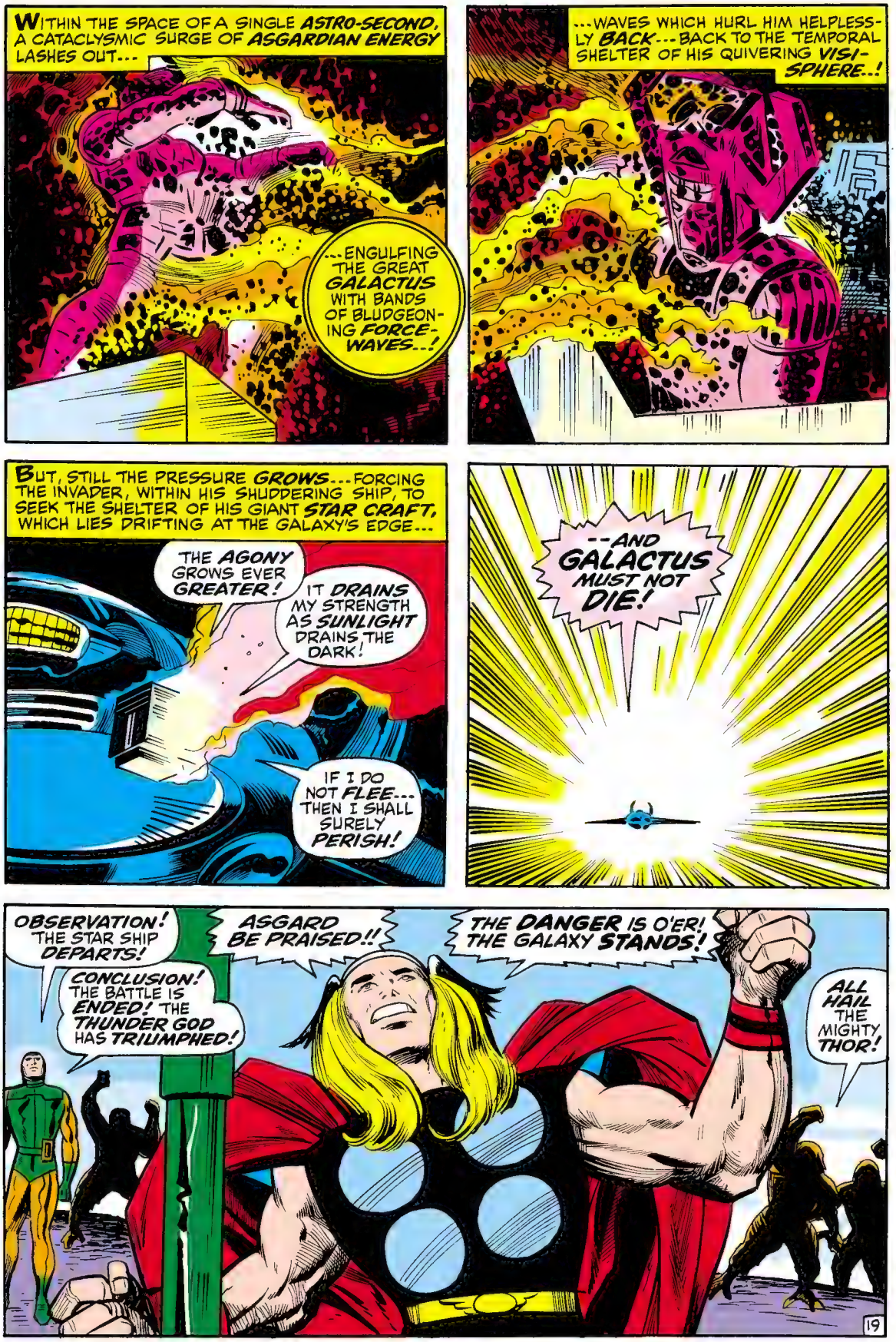
OBSERVATION! THE WISE MAN DOES NOT FIGHT IN VAIN!
PROPOSITION! THOUGH WE MUST FALL--- CAN YOU NOT ESCAPE--- THRU FLIGHT?
SPEAK NOT TO THOR OF BASE ESCAPE!
SHALL I SURVIVE --- WHILST OTHERS FALL?
I SAY THEE NAY!

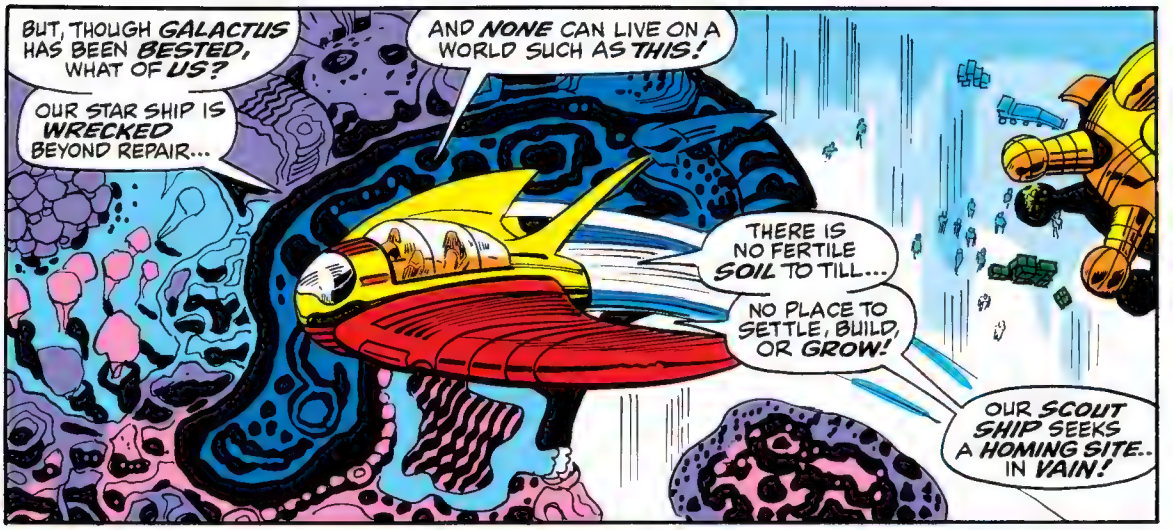
THEN GOD AND WANDERER ALIKE HAVE COME TO JOURNEY'S END!
TOGETHER WE STRIVED! TOGETHER WE DIE!
GALACTUS HAS WON---THE ULTIMATE VICTORY!

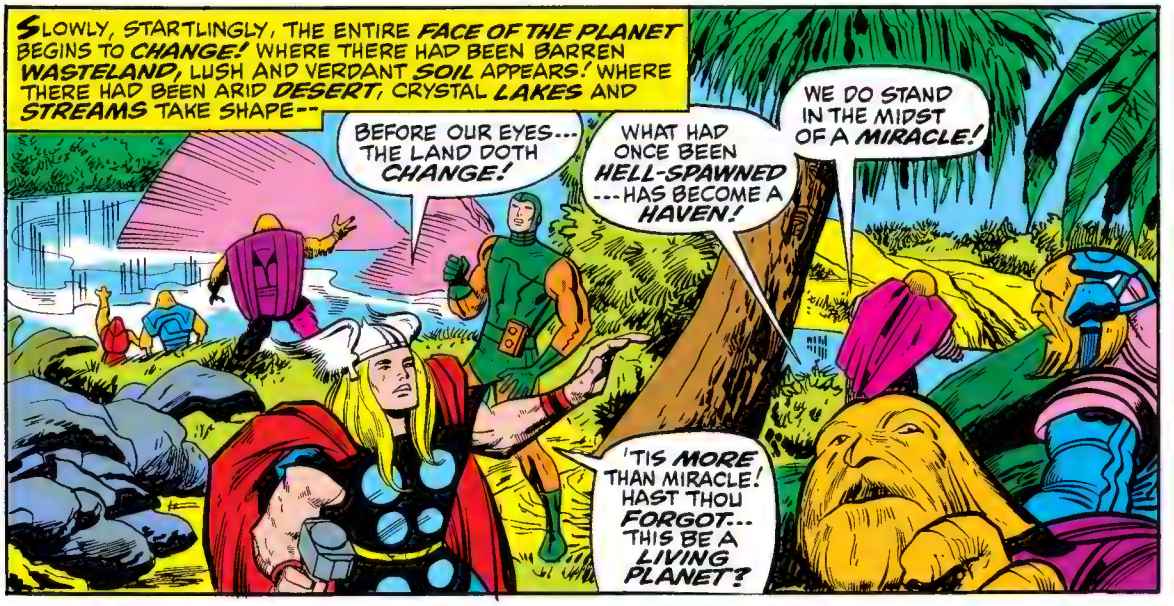
IS IT FOR THIS WE HAVE ENDURED FOR AGES? FOR THIS WE HAVE CROSSED THE LIMITLESS GALAXIES?
HERE TO STAND--- ON A PLANET OF DEATH---AND SUCCUMB TO GALACTUS TOGETHER!!
NEVER--- WHILST THOR DOTH ENDURE!!
THE SON OF ODIN IS NOT SO SIMPLY VANQUISHED!

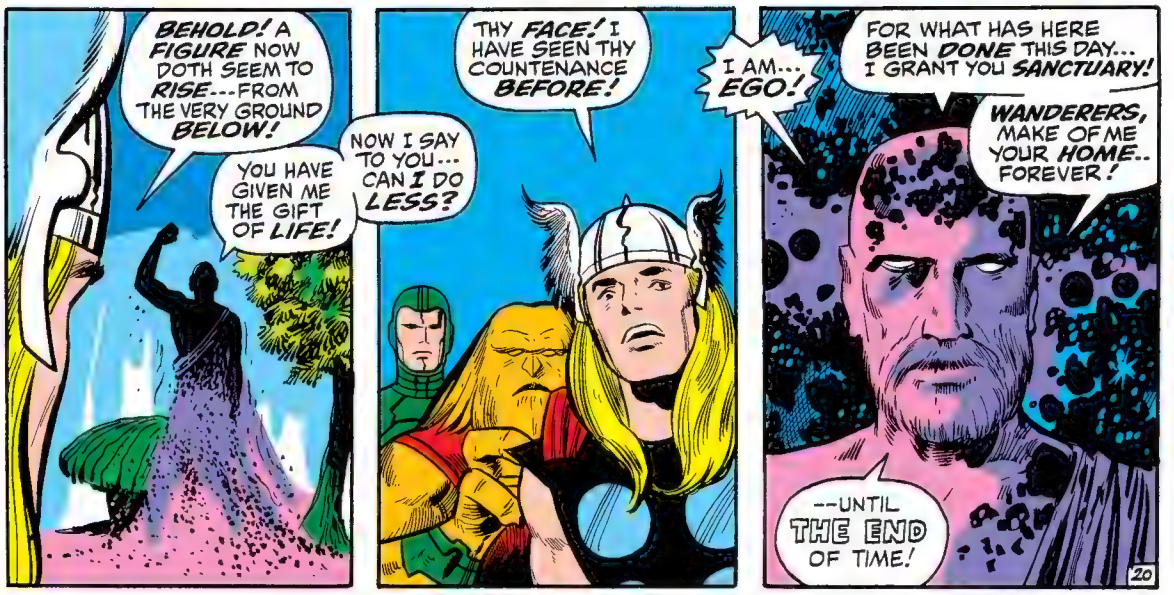
STILL HAVE I THE MYSTIC MJOLNIR!
STILL THE POWER WHICH TRANSCENDETH ALL!!

FROM THY CRIPPLED SHIP WE SHALL ERECT A STAND...
...TO HOUSE YON MIGHTY MALLET!
NOW SEEK YE SHELTER, ALL!
'TIS DONE!
THERE SHALL BE UNLEASHED SUCH FORCE AS THOU HATH NEVER KNOWN!
IN THE NAME OF ODIN---I DO THEE GRASP!!
NOW---WHILST THE THUNDER ROARS... WHILST THE STORM DOTH RAGE...
LET THE GODLY STRENGTH OF THOR BE ONE WITH THE HAMMER SUPREME!!
AND, SINCE SUCH SURGING POWER MUST EVER BE RELEASED...
AT MY COMMAND ---I HURL IT FORTH ---THAT IT MAY SMITE GALACTUS!
18


WITHIN THE SPACE OF A SINGLE ASTRO-SECOND, A CATACLYSMIC SURGE OF ASGARDIAN ENERGY LASHES OUT---
---ENGULFING THE GREAT GALACTUS WITH BANDS OF BLUDGEONING FORCE-WAVES--!
---WAVES WHICH HURL HIM HELPLESSLY BACK---BACK TO THE TEMPORAL SHELTER OF HIS QUIVERING VISI-SPHERE--!
BUT, STILL THE PRESSURE GROWS---FORCING THE INVADER, WITHIN HIS SHUDDERING SHIP, TO SEEK THE SHELTER OF HIS GIANT STAR CRAFT, WHICH LIES DRIFTING AT THE GALAXY'S EDGE---
THE AGONY GROWS EVER GREATER!
IT DRAINS MY STRENGTH AS SUNLIGHT DRAINS THE DARK!
IF I DO NOT FLEE--- THEN I SHALL SURELY PERISH!
--AND GALACTUS MUST NOT DIE!
OBSERVATION! THE STAR SHIP DEPARTS!
CONCLUSION! THE BATTLE IS ENDED! THE THUNDER GOD HAS TRIUMPHED!
ASGARD BE PRAISED!!
THE DANGER IS O'ER! THE GALAXY STANDS!
ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY THOR!
19


BUT, THOUGH GALACTUS HAS BEEN BESTED, WHAT OF US?
OUR STAR SHIP IS WRECKED BEYOND REPAIR...
AND NONE CAN LIVE ON A WORLD SUCH AS THIS!
THERE IS NO FERTILE SOIL TO TILL...
NO PLACE TO SETTLE, BUILD, OR GROW!
OUR SCOUT SHIP SEEKS A HOMING SITE.. IN VAIN!

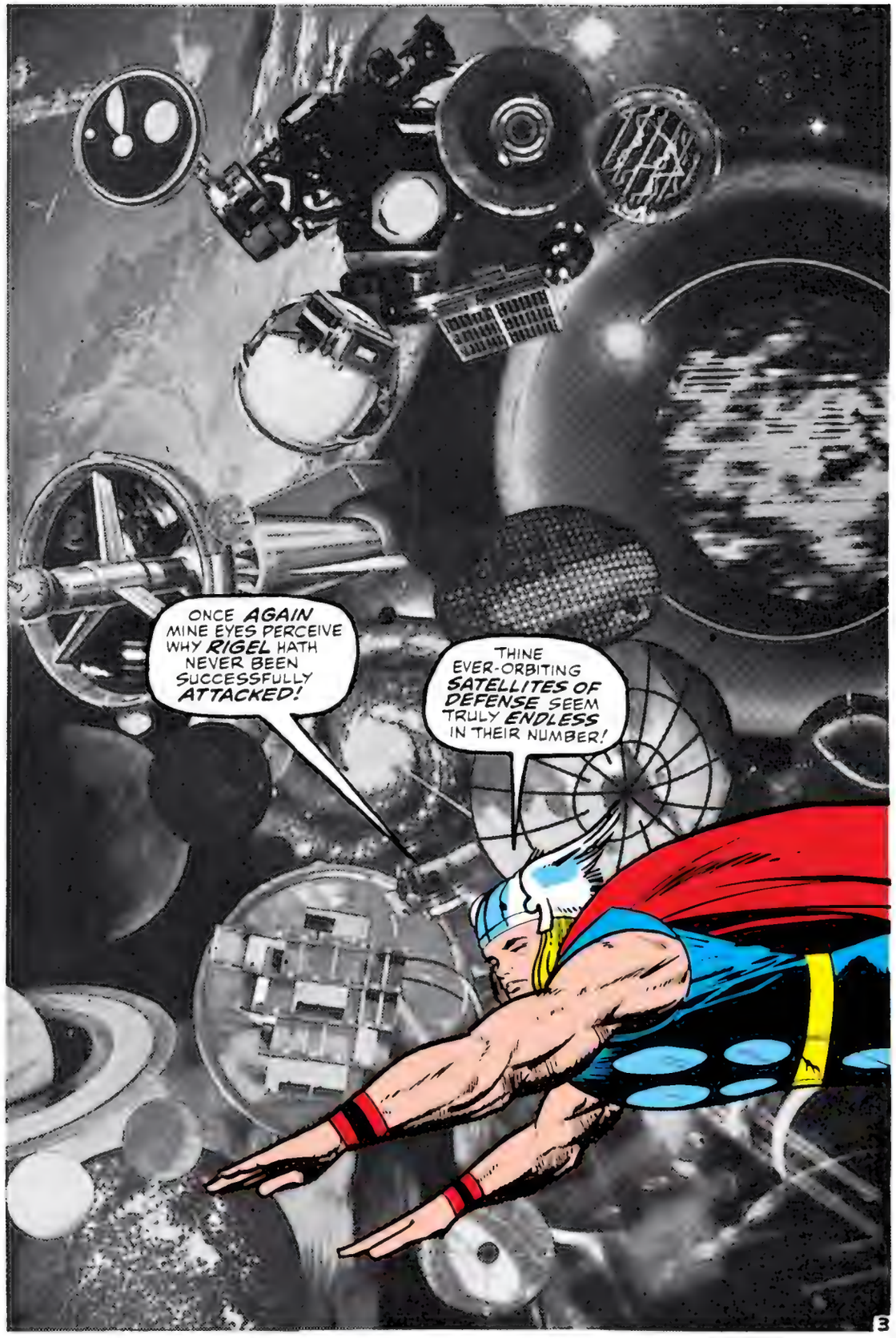

SLOWLY, STARTLINGLY, THE ENTIRE FACE OF THE PLANET BEGINS TO CHANGE! WHERE THERE HAD BEEN BARREN WASTELAND, LUSH AND VERDANT SOIL APPEARS! WHERE THERE HAD BEEN ARID DESERT, CRYSTAL LAKES AND STREAMS TAKE SHAPE--
BEFORE OUR EYES... THE LAND DOTH CHANGE!
WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN HELL-SPAWNED ---HAS BECOME A HAVEN!
WE DO STAND IN THE MIDST OF A MIRACLE!
'TIS MORE THAN MIRACLE! HAST THOU FORGOT... THIS BE A LIVING PLANET?


BEHOLD! A FIGURE NOW DOTH SEEM TO RISE---FROM THE VERY GROUND BELOW!
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE GIFT OF LIFE!
NOW I SAY TO YOU... CAN I DO LESS?
THY FACE! I HAVE SEEN THY COUNTENANCE BEFORE!
I AM... EGO!
FOR WHAT HAS HERE BEEN DONE THIS DAY... I GRANT YOU SANCTUARY!
WANDERERS, MAKE OF ME YOUR HOME.. FOREVER!
--UNTIL THE END OF TIME!

THOR
12¢ IND
162 MAR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GALACTUS A'BORNING!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE MIGHTY THOR!™
GALACTUS IS BORN!
THE DEED IS DONE!
WE NOW BE HOME-WARD BOUND!
HAVING SAVED THE LIVING PLANET, EGO, FROM THE DEADLY ATTACK OF GALACTUS, BOTH THE THUNDER GOD AND THE HUMAN-FORM, COMPUTER-IZED RECORDER ARE SWIFTLY HURLED SPACE-WARD, TOWARDS RIGEL GALAXY, BY THE PRO-FOUNDLY GRATEFUL EGO...
DEDUCTION: THOUGH A PLANET HAS BEEN SPARED... THE DREADED GALACTUS IS STILL AT LARGE!
CONCLUSION: THE UNIVERSE IS STILL IN GRAVEST PERIL!
A SMILIN' STAN LEE and JOLLY JACK KIRBY PRODUCTION
EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
AND NOW, BELIEVER, BE THOU PREPARED FOR ANOTHER DOUBLE-PAGE KIRBY SPACERAMA SUCH AS THINE MERELY MORTAL EYES HAVE NE'ER BEFORE BEHELD...

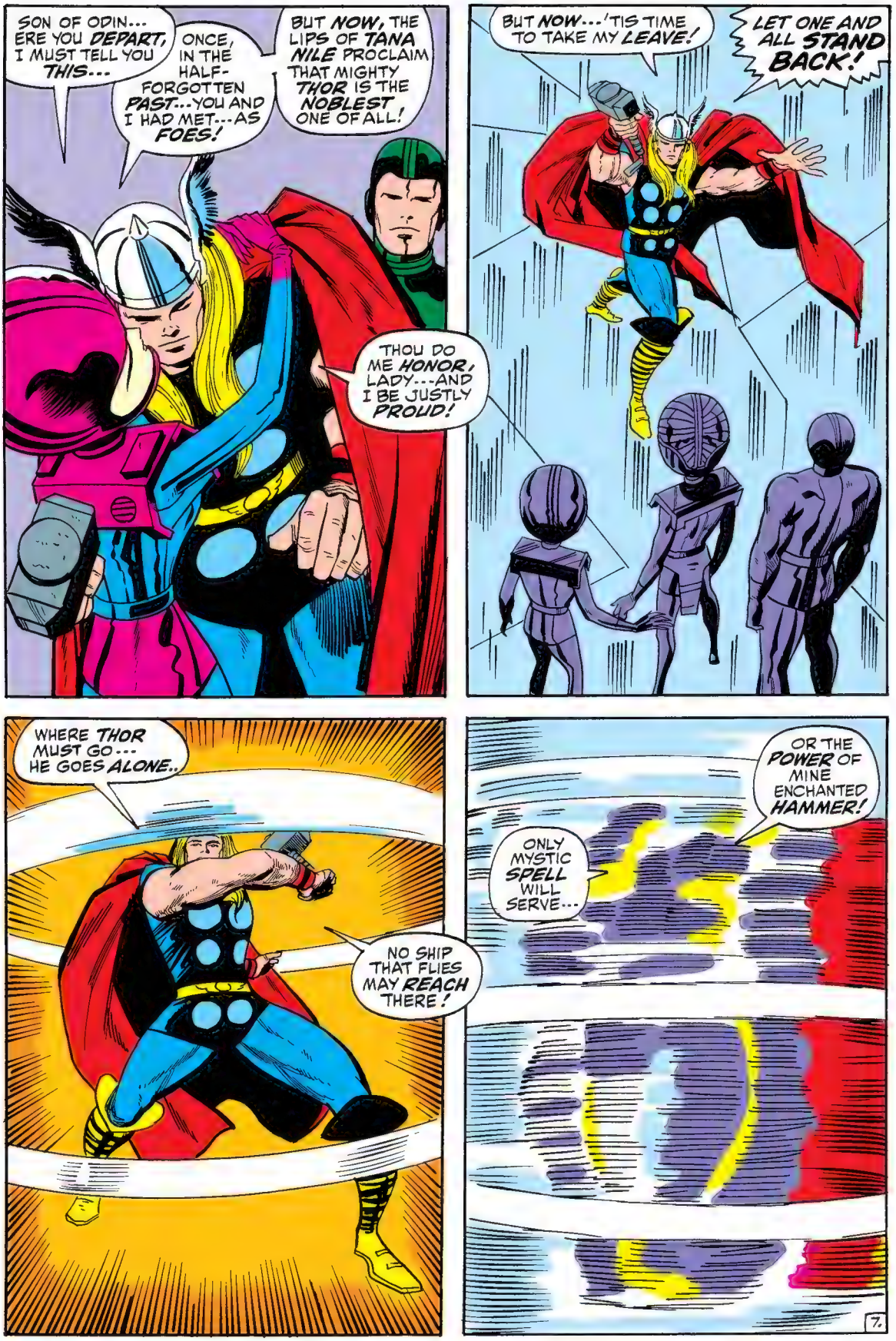
DEDUCTION: THE POWER OF EGO IS ALMOST BEYOND COM-PUTATION!
WITHIN SPATIAL SECONDS, WE ARE ENTERING THE WORLD OF THE COLONIZERS!


ONCE AGAIN MINE EYES PERCEIVE WHY RIGEL HATH NEVER BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED!
THINE EVER-ORBITING SATELLITES OF DEFENSE SEEM TRULY ENDLESS IN THEIR NUMBER!

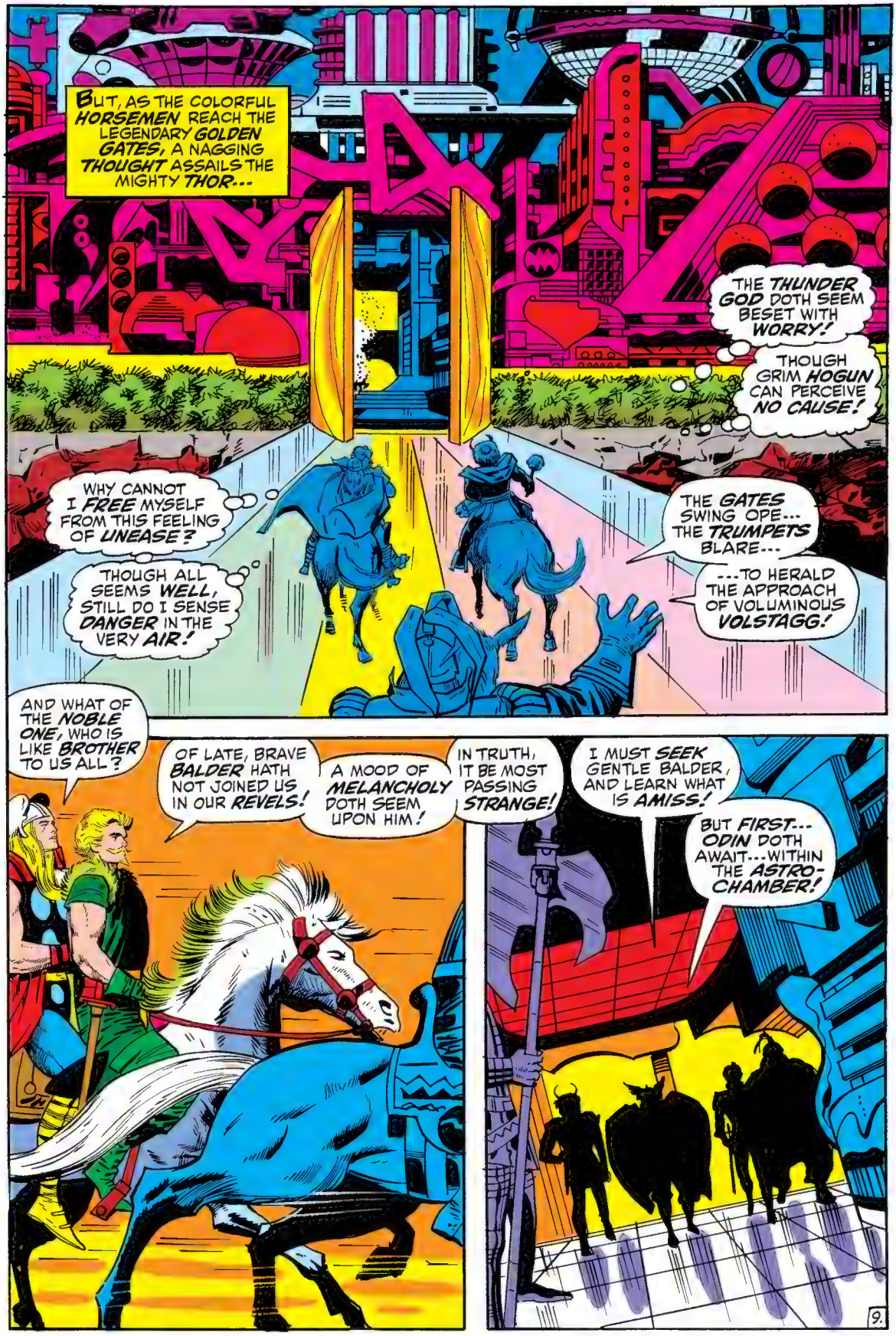
AT LENGTH, A GLEAMING, MULTI-PURPOSE SPACE STATION, POISED ABOVE THE HEART OF RIGEL, SEEMS TO DRAW THEM TO ITS CENTER...
WE HAVE REACHED OUR JOURNEY'S END!
ALL OF RIGEL NOW AWAITS US!
SO LET US LAND, FOR THOU MUST RELATE WHAT HATH TRANSPIRED!
MEMORY CIRCUITS ACTIVATED! REPLAY CYCLE FULLY OPERATIONAL!
TAKE ME TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER!
IT SHALL BE DONE, RECORDER!
4.

THEN, WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED, THE AUDIENCE IS GRANTED--- AS THE RESULT OF THE THUNDER GOD'S MISSION IS ELECTRONICALLY FLASHED THRUOUT THE GALAXY, VIA THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PORTA-COMMUNISCREEN---!
YOU HAVE DONE GREAT SERVICE TO THE WORLD OF RIGEL!
AS HIGH COMMISSIONER, AND IMPERIAL COLONIZER EMERITUS, I LAUD YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH---I HONOR YOU FOR YOUR VALOR!
NOW, STEP YOU FORTH, RECORDER--- FOR THERE IS MUCH THAT I MUST LEARN!
PREPARE YOUR MEMORY BANK FOR OFFICIAL REMOVAL!
COLONIZER NILE HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PREPARE THE TRANSCRIPT!
5.

NOW, WITH YOUR MISSION DONE, PREPARE FOR DEACTIVATION!
BY THE GATES OF ASGARD!! THOR BIDS THEE HOLD!
THOU CANST NOT CALLOUSLY DISCARD SO NOBLE AN ALLY!
PRINCE OF ASGARD, HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?
WITH ALL RESPECT...
HE, WHO HAS BEEN YOUR ALLY, IS BUT A MOST COMPLEX MACHINE! 'TWAS WE WHO CREATED HIM...
THOR SAYS THEE NAY!
THOU DIDST BUT SHAPE HIS FORM... THEN DIDST IMPLANT A HEART...
EVEN AS HUMAN SURGEONS DO, ON THE FAR-OFF PLANET EARTH!
BUT, WHO CAN SAY FROM WHENCE COMES... THE BREATH OF LIFE?
AND, SURELY AS NIGHT DOTH FOLLOW DAY, HIM WHO IS CALLED RECORDER, DOTH FEEL... DOTH LOVE...
AND THEREFORE DOTH POSSESS ...THAT WHICH MEN CALL... SOUL!
THE WORDS OF THOR HAVE WISDOM!
RECORDER... YOU SHALL LIVE!
6

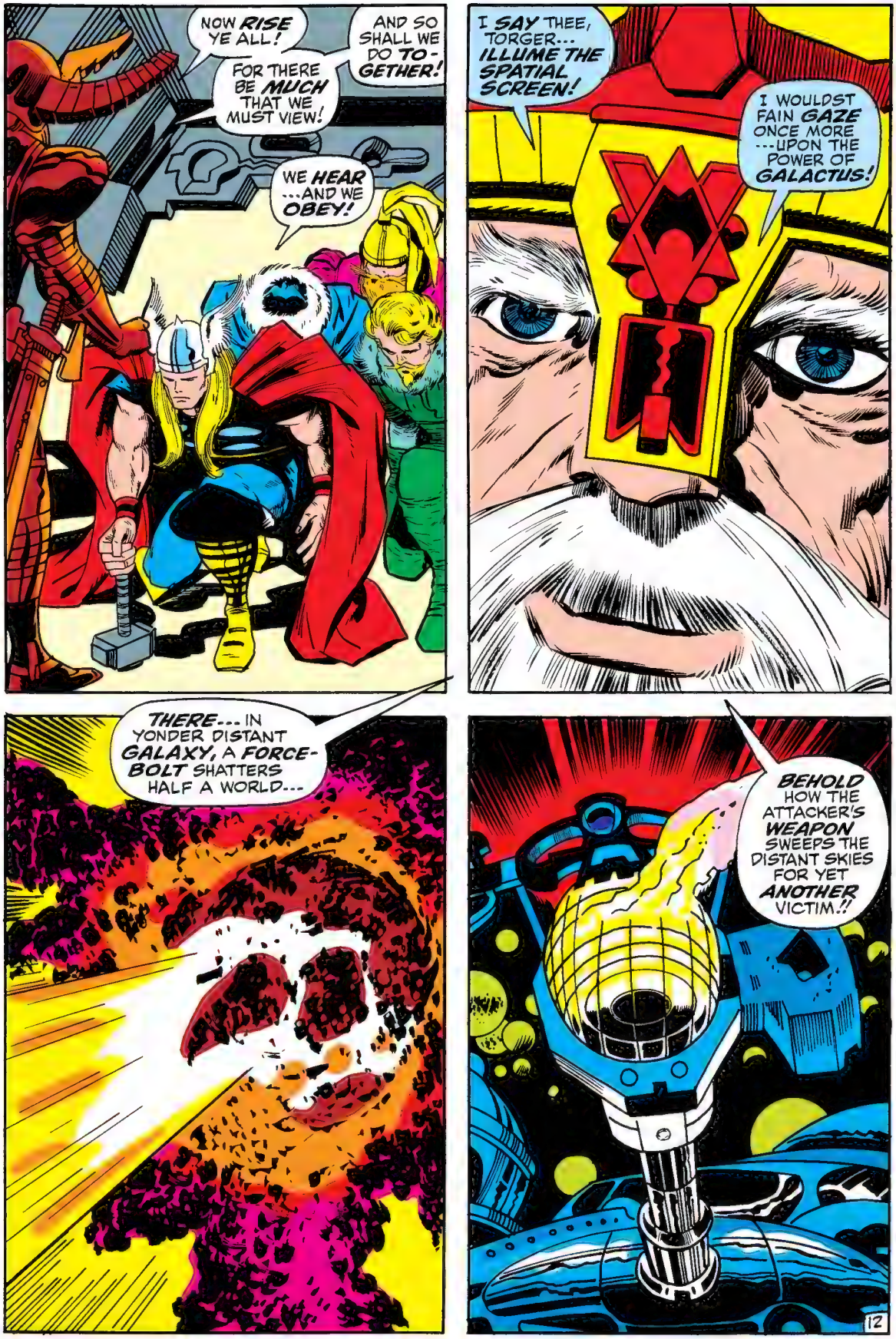

SON OF ODIN... ERE YOU DEPART, I MUST TELL YOU THIS...
ONCE, IN THE HALF-FORGOTTEN PAST...YOU AND I HAD MET...AS FOES!
BUT NOW, THE LIPS OF TANA NILE PROCLAIM THAT MIGHTY THOR IS THE NOBLEST ONE OF ALL!
THOU DO ME HONOR, LADY...AND I BE JUSTLY PROUD!
BUT NOW...'TIS TIME TO TAKE MY LEAVE!
LET ONE AND ALL STAND BACK!
WHERE THOR MUST GO... HE GOES ALONE..
NO SHIP THAT FLIES MAY REACH THERE!
ONLY MYSTIC SPELL WILL SERVE...
OR THE POWER OF MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER!
7.

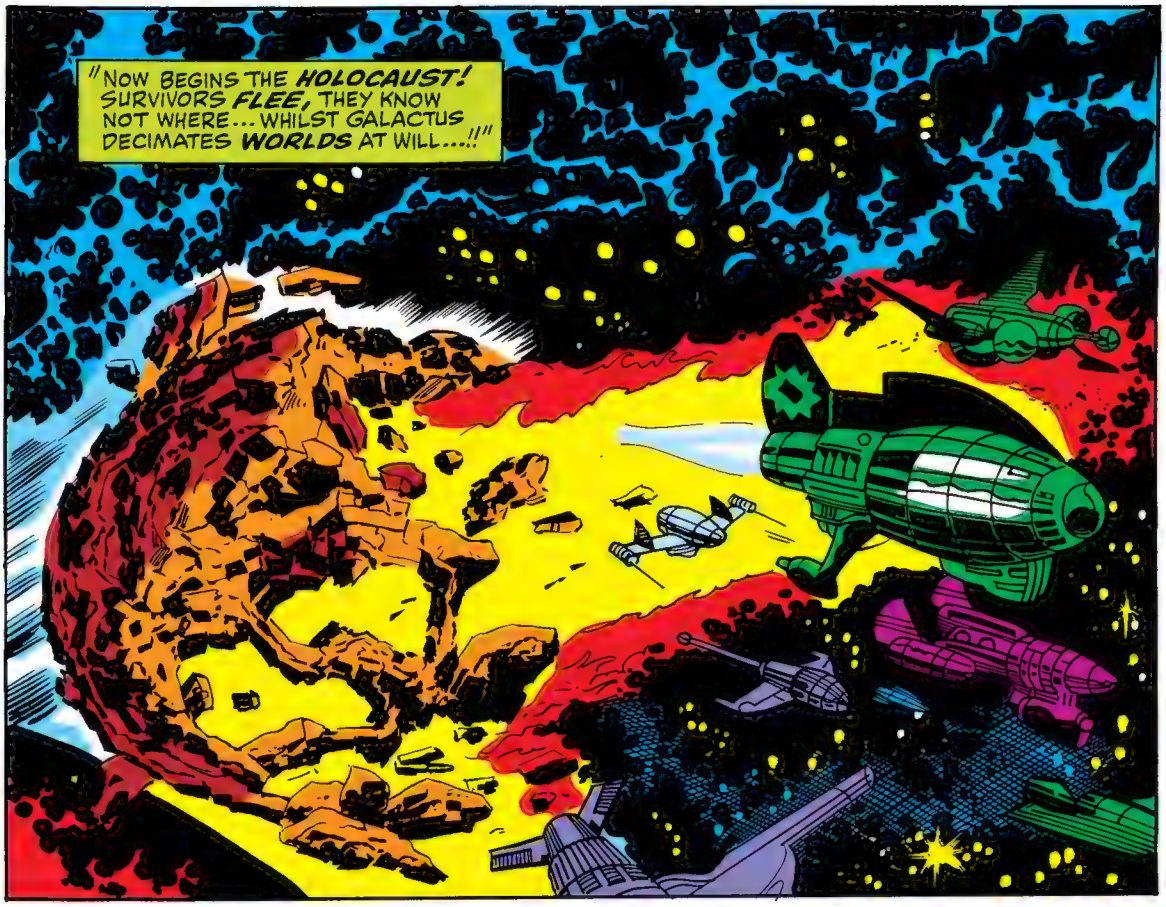
NOW ALL IS GONE... WHILST NAUGHT BUT THOR REMAINS!
DEEPER GROWS THE SPINNING VORTEX!
AS CLOSER COME I TO FABLED...
ASGARD!
WHO TREADS UPON THE RAINBOW BRIDGE??
PRAY SHEATHE THY SWORD, BRAVE HEIMDALL!
'TIS I, THE GOD OF THUNDER!
PASS THEE THEN, MY PRINCE!
'TIS WELL... FOR THERE BE MUCH I WOULD RELATE!
THY MOST SOVEREIGN SIRE AWAITS THY COMING!
NO NEED FOR WORDS!
UP THEN, THOR! LET US AWAY!
ALL-WISE ODIN DOTH KNOW WHAT HATH TRANSPIRED!
FANDRAL! WILT THOU TAKE ME HENCE?
OUR HEARTS REJOICE! OUR COMRADE IS RETURNED!
STILL STANDS THE REALM... FOR ALL BE WELL!
WAIT THOU, FOR VALIANT VOLSTAGG!
I MUST NEEDS HOLD MY CHARGER BACK:--
LEST HE TRAMPLE ALL AND SUNDRY!

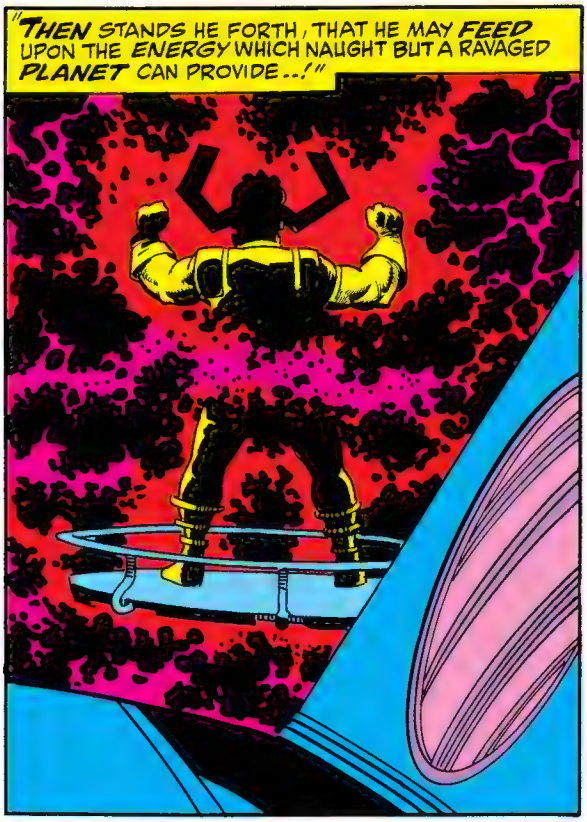

BUT, AS THE COLORFUL HORSEMEN REACH THE LEGENDARY GOLDEN GATES, A NAGGING THOUGHT ASSAILS THE MIGHTY THOR...
THE THUNDER GOD DOTH SEEM BESET WITH WORRY!
THOUGH GRIM HOGUN CAN PERCEIVE NO CAUSE!
WHY CANNOT I FREE MYSELF FROM THIS FEELING OF UNEASE?
THOUGH ALL SEEMS WELL, STILL DO I SENSE DANGER IN THE VERY AIR!
THE GATES SWING OPE... THE TRUMPETS BLARE...
...TO HERALD THE APPROACH OF VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG!
AND WHAT OF THE NOBLE ONE, WHO IS LIKE BROTHER TO US ALL?
OF LATE, BRAVE BALDER HATH NOT JOINED US IN OUR REVELS!
A MOOD OF MELANCHOLY DOTH SEEM UPON HIM!
IN TRUTH, IT BE MOST PASSING STRANGE!
I MUST SEEK GENTLE BALDER, AND LEARN WHAT IS AMISS!
BUT FIRST... ODIN DOTH AWAIT...WITHIN THE ASTRO-CHAMBER!
9.

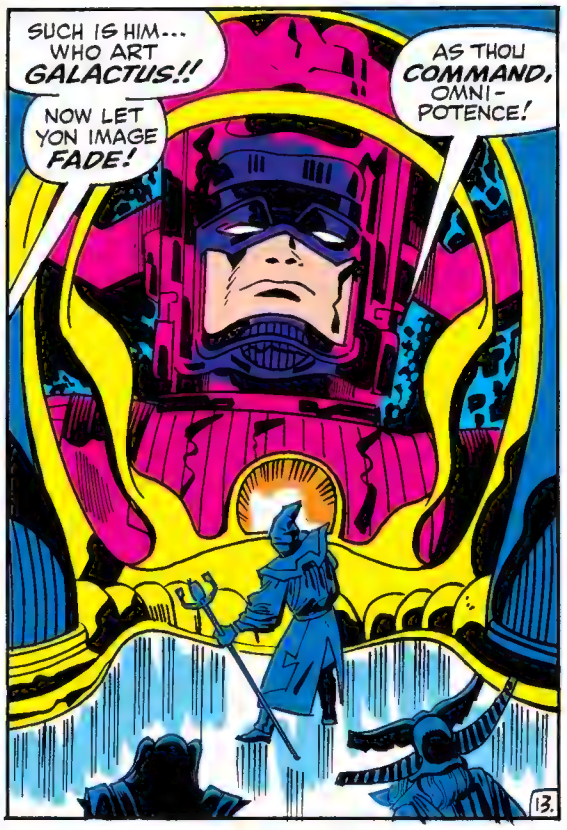
I BID THEE, NOBLE LORDS, STAND FAST!
HEED YE NOW THE WORDS OF TORGER...
FOR I BE COSMIC COUNSELOR TO THE REALM!
AT THE COMMAND OF THINE IMPERIAL FATHER, I HAVE SCANNED THE COSMOS...OBSERVING THY BATTLE WITH GALACTUS!
FOR, SINCE THY PLANET-SHATTERING FOE STILL LIVES...THE DANGER IS EVER PRESENT!
THUS, WE MUST LEARN FROM WHENCE HE COMES...AND SO MUST WE FATHOM WHY!!
FIRST, I SET IN MOTION THE SPATIAL SCREEN...
AND NOW, IF ODIN GRANT ME LEAVE...??
BE SILENT ALL!
THE LIVING OMNIPOTENCE DOTH NOW APPROACH!!
10.

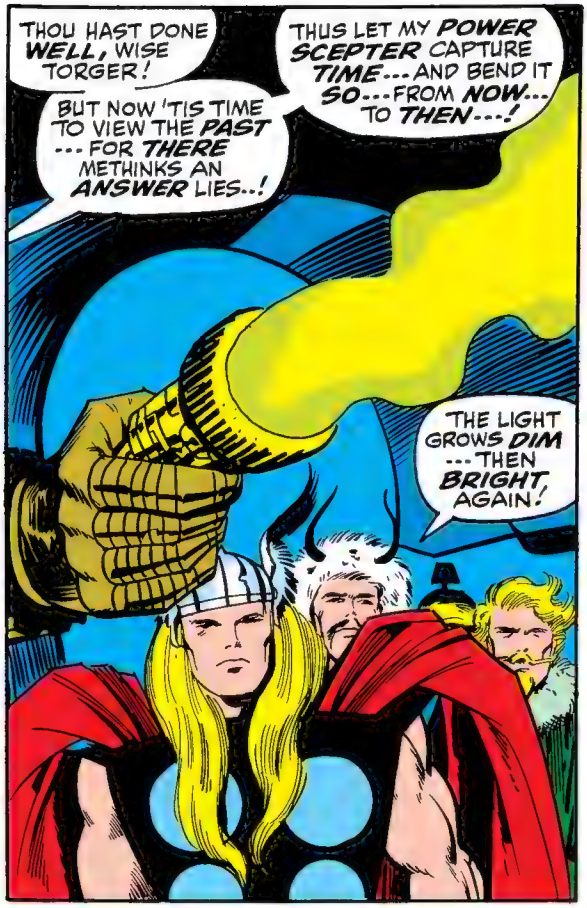
I SAY THEE WELCOME!!
AND MOST ESPECIALLY HIM WHO BE FLESH OF ODIN'S FLESH... BLOOD OF ODIN'S BLOOD!
THOU HAST FARED WELL IN THY BATTLE 'GAINST GALACTUS!
BUT, KNOW YE THIS, MOST NOBLE SON...
THE BATTLE BE NOT ENDED!

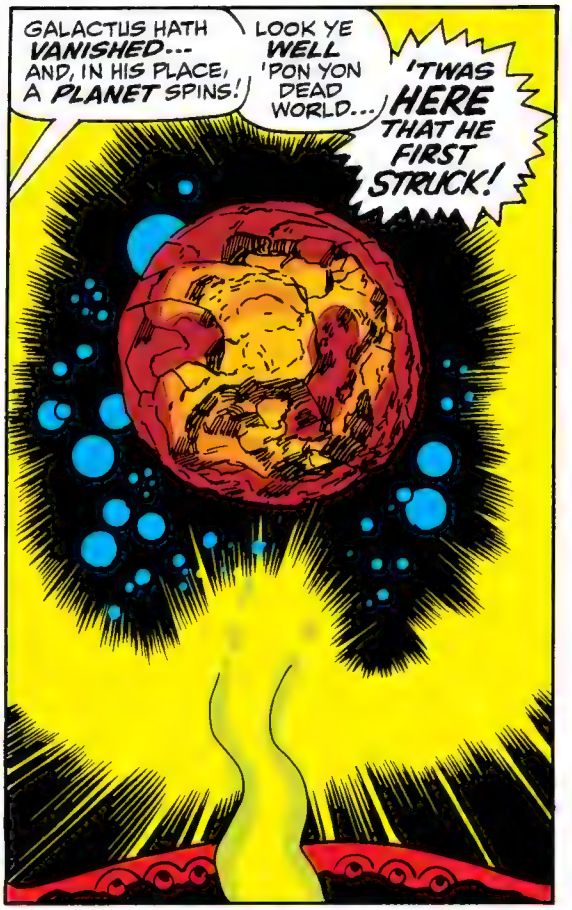

NOW RISE YE ALL!
AND SO SHALL WE DO TO-GETHER!
FOR THERE BE MUCH THAT WE MUST VIEW!
WE HEAR ...AND WE OBEY!
I SAY THEE, TORGER... ILLUME THE SPATIAL SCREEN!
I WOULDST FAIN GAZE ONCE MORE ...UPON THE POWER OF GALACTUS!
THERE... IN YONDER DISTANT GALAXY, A FORCE-BOLT SHATTERS HALF A WORLD...
BEHOLD HOW THE ATTACKER'S WEAPON SWEEPS THE DISTANT SKIES FOR YET ANOTHER VICTIM!!
12


"NOW BEGINS THE HOLOCAUST! SURVIVORS FLEE, THEY KNOW NOT WHERE... WHILST GALACTUS DECIMATES WORLDS AT WILL...!!"


"THEN STANDS HE FORTH, THAT HE MAY FEED UPON THE ENERGY WHICH NAUGHT BUT A RAVAGED PLANET CAN PROVIDE..!"

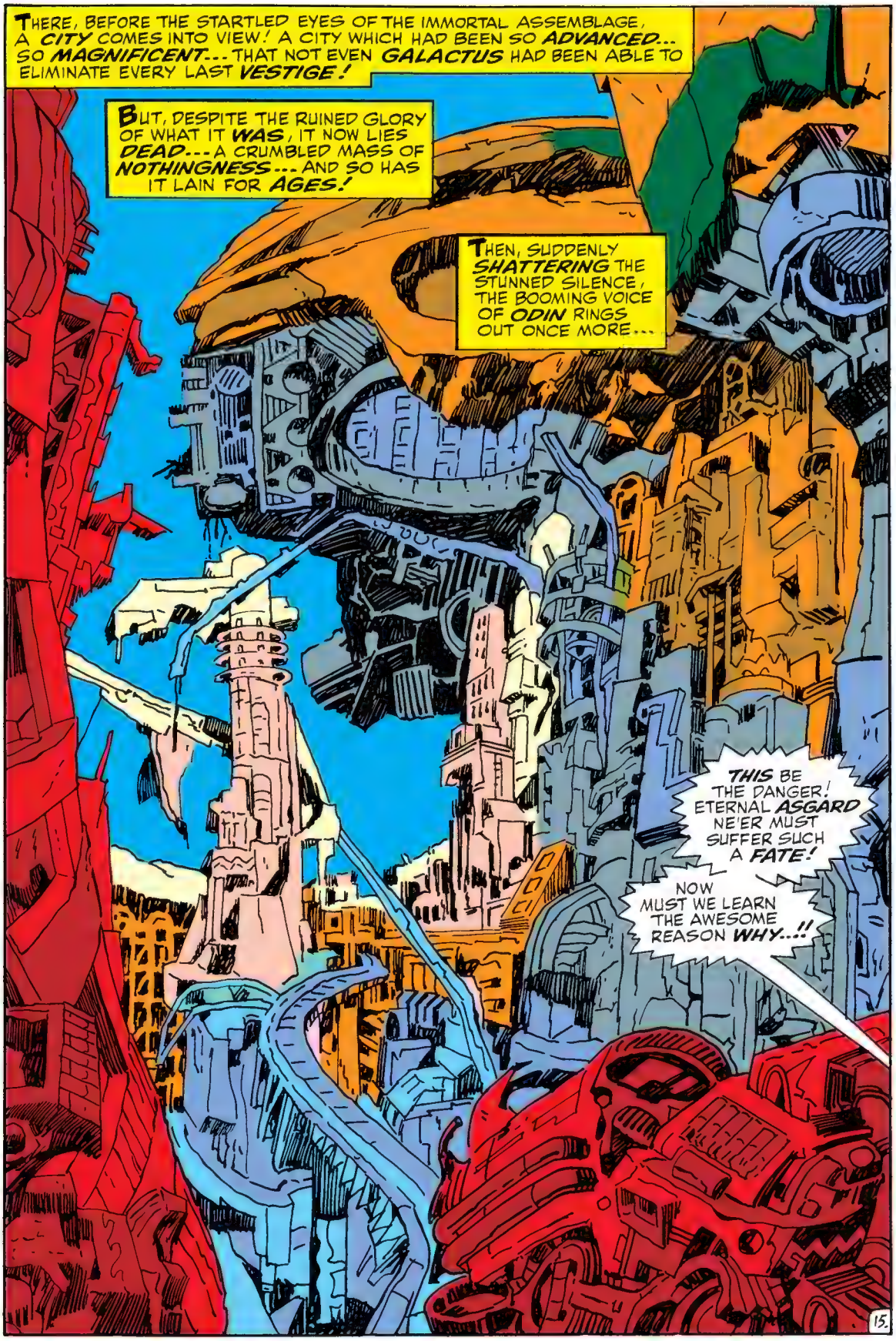

SUCH IS HIM... WHO ART GALACTUS!!
NOW LET YON IMAGE FADE!
AS THOU COMMAND, OMNI-POTENCE!
13.

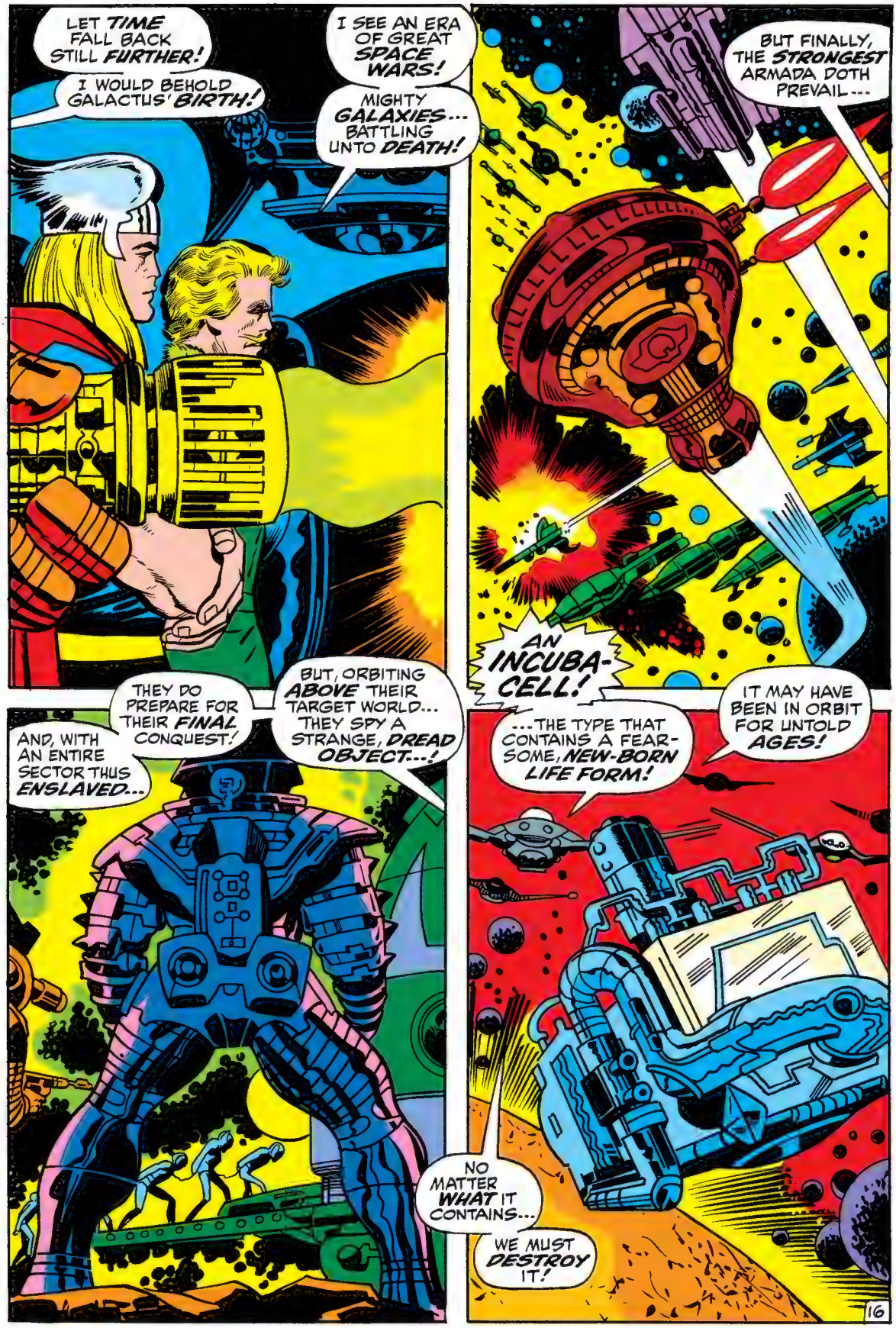

THOU HAST DONE WELL, WISE TORGER!
THUS LET MY POWER SCEPTER CAPTURE TIME---AND BEND IT SO---FROM NOW--- TO THEN---!
BUT NOW 'TIS TIME TO VIEW THE PAST --- FOR THERE METHINKS AN ANSWER LIES..!
THE LIGHT GROWS DIM --- THEN BRIGHT AGAIN!

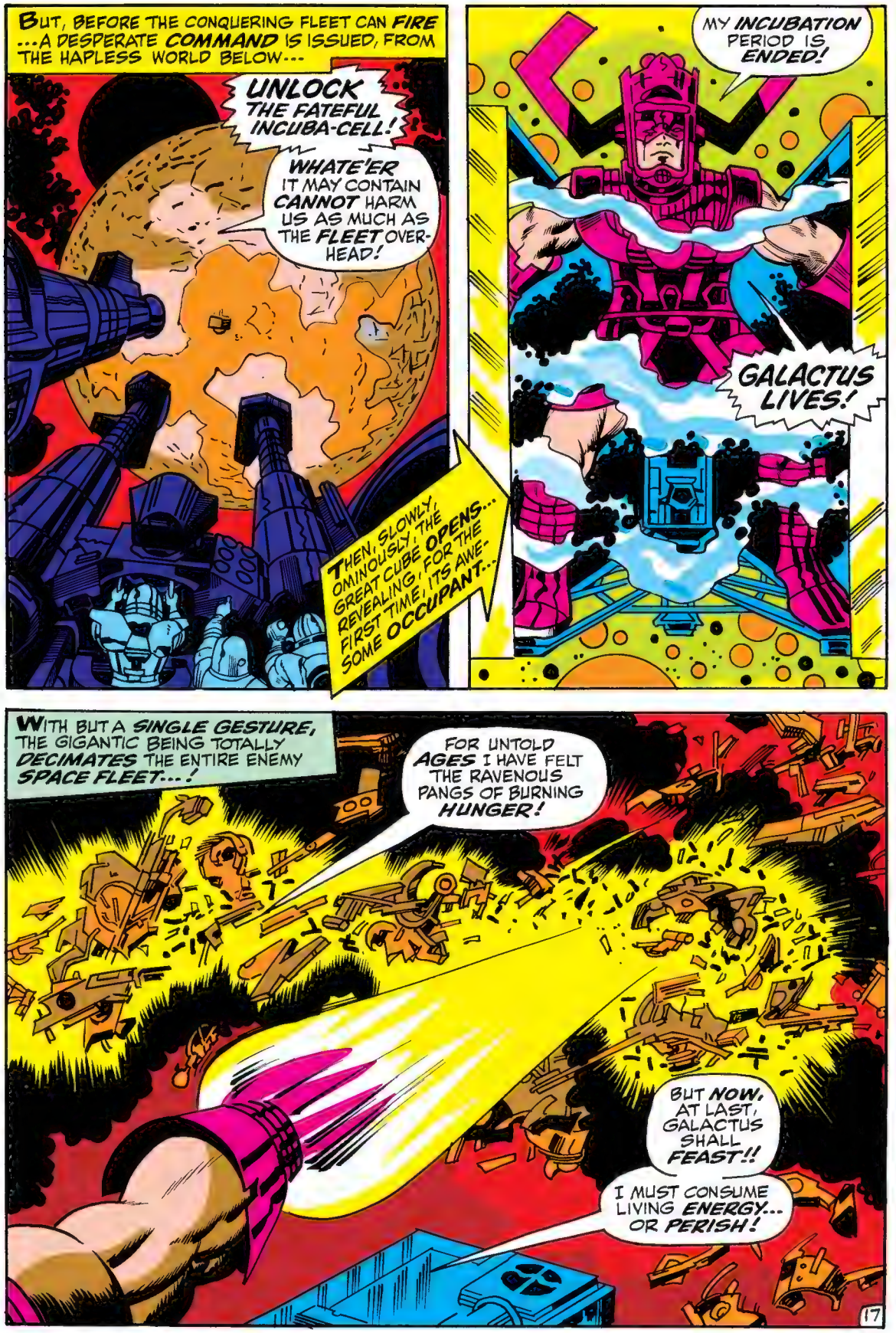

GALACTUS HATH VANISHED--- AND, IN HIS PLACE, A PLANET SPINS!
LOOK YE WELL 'PON YON DEAD WORLD...
'TWAS HERE THAT HE FIRST STRUCK!

NOW 'TIS COLD AND LIFELESS... BUT 'TWAS NOT EVER SO---
NAY, 'TWAS A WORLD MOST WONDROUS--- TILL THE DREAD GALACTUS STRUCK!

IT HATH THE SEEMING OF RAGNAROK ITSELF!!
BUT, 'TWAS THE LAND THAT GAVE HIM BIRTH! WHY DID HE THEN DESTROY IT??
BEHOLD! THE POWER SCEPTER BRINGS THE PLANET CLOSER!
'TIS A SIGHT TO CHILL THE BLOOD!

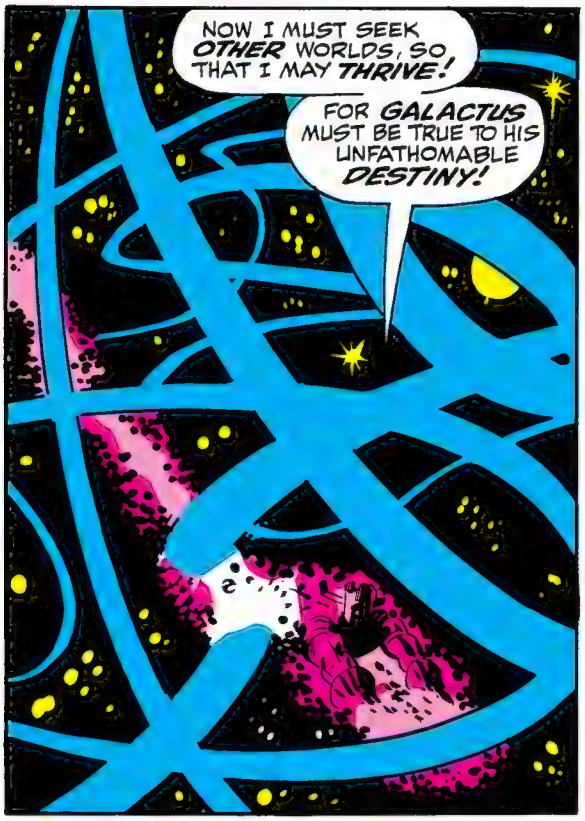

THERE, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE IMMORTAL ASSEMBLAGE, A CITY COMES INTO VIEW! A CITY WHICH HAD BEEN SO ADVANCED... SO MAGNIFICENT... THAT NOT EVEN GALACTUS HAD BEEN ABLE TO ELIMINATE EVERY LAST VESTIGE!
BUT, DESPITE THE RUINED GLORY OF WHAT IT WAS, IT NOW LIES DEAD... A CRUMBLED MASS OF NOTHINGNESS... AND SO HAS IT LAIN FOR AGES!
THEN, SUDDENLY SHATTERING THE STUNNED SILENCE, THE BOOMING VOICE OF ODIN RINGS OUT ONCE MORE...
THIS BE THE DANGER! ETERNAL ASGARD NE'ER MUST SUFFER SUCH A FATE!
NOW MUST WE LEARN THE AWESOME REASON WHY...!!


LET TIME FALL BACK STILL FURTHER!
I WOULD BEHOLD GALACTUS' BIRTH!
I SEE AN ERA OF GREAT SPACE WARS!
MIGHTY GALAXIES... BATTLING UNTO DEATH!
BUT FINALLY, THE STRONGEST ARMADA DOTH PREVAIL...
AN INCUBA-CELL!
IT MAY HAVE BEEN IN ORBIT FOR UNTOLD AGES!
...THE TYPE THAT CONTAINS A FEAR-SOME, NEW-BORN LIFE FORM!
NO MATTER WHAT IT CONTAINS...
WE MUST DESTROY IT!
BUT, ORBITING ABOVE THEIR TARGET WORLD... THEY SPY A STRANGE, DREAD OBJECT...!
THEY DO PREPARE FOR THEIR FINAL CONQUEST!
AND, WITH AN ENTIRE SECTOR THUS ENSLAVED...


BUT, BEFORE THE CONQUERING FLEET CAN FIRE ...A DESPERATE COMMAND IS ISSUED, FROM THE HAPLESS WORLD BELOW---
UNLOCK THE FATEFUL INCUBA-CELL!
WHATE'ER IT MAY CONTAIN CANNOT HARM US AS MUCH AS THE FLEET OVER-HEAD!
THEN, SLOWLY, OMINOUSLY, THE GREAT CUBE OPENS... REVEALING, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ITS AWE-SOME OCCUPANT...
MY INCUBATION PERIOD IS ENDED!
GALACTUS LIVES!
WITH BUT A SINGLE GESTURE, THE GIGANTIC BEING TOTALLY DECIMATES THE ENTIRE ENEMY SPACE FLEET...!
FOR UNTOLD AGES I HAVE FELT THE RAVENOUS PANGS OF BURNING HUNGER!
BUT NOW, AT LAST, GALACTUS SHALL FEAST!!
I MUST CONSUME LIVING ENERGY... OR PERISH!
17

MORE! I MUST HAVE MORE!

AND SO IT IS THAT THE VERY PLANET WHICH GAVE HIM BIRTH IS THE FIRST TO SUCCUMB TO HIS DEADLY ASSAULT...!
I KNOW NOT WHO OR WHAT THEY ARE BELOW!
I ONLY KNOW... GALACTUS MUST LIVE!


NOW I MUST SEEK OTHER WORLDS, SO THAT I MAY THRIVE!
FOR GALACTUS MUST BE TRUE TO HIS UNFATHOMABLE DESTINY!

I HAVE VIEWED ENOW!
ODIN HATH SEEN... AND HEARD ...AND LEARNED!
THE MYSTERY REMAINETH... BUT ONE THING IS MOST PASSING CLEAR...
GALACTUS HATH POWER TO RIVAL THINE OWN!

THOU SPEAKEST WITH THE TONGUE OF YOUTH!
BUT, NO MATTER! WHAT IS TO BE... WILL BE!
OUR LIEGE DEPARTS!
ONE DAY, METHINKS, 'TWILL BE OUR FATE TO FACE GALACTUS!
THEN SHALL HE FEEL THE MIGHT OF ASGARD!
WOULD THAT OUR PROWESS CAN MATCH THY WORDS!
IF DIRE BATTLE THREATENS, VOLSTAGG MUST PREPARE!
'TIS TIME FOR US TO SUP!
NE'ER WAS BATTLE WON ON EMPTY STOMACHS!
AND NE'ER, WITHIN MORTAL MEMORY HATH STOMACH SUCH AS THINE BEEN EMPTY!
COME, NOBLE PRINCE, LET US JOIN THE ROTUND ONE IN TASTY REPAST!
NOT YET, DASHING FANDRAL!
I WOULDST FAIN HAVE WORDS WITH BALDER WHOSE ABSENCE DOTH PUZZLE ME SORELY!
STAY, SON OF ODIN!
NOT YET HATH TORGER DONE WITH THEE!
HOW SPEAKEST THEE, WISE COUNCELOR?
THOU HAST A TROUBLED MIEN!
GALACTUS STILL IS FAR AWAY... BUT ANOTHER THREAT LOOMS CLOSER!
ATTEND THEE NOW MY WORDS...
I HAVE SENSED GREAT DANGER 'PON THE PLANET EARTH!
AND, IN THINE ABSENCE, THE GODDESS SIF DIDST HIE HERSELF THITHER ...TO LEARN THE CAUSE!
BUT, NAUGHT FROM HER HAVE WE HEARD... SAVE OMINOUS SILENCE!
19.

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BALDER THE BRAVE IS ALSO TORTURED BY A HAUNTING SILENCE---
I CANNOT FIND SURCEASE IN SLUMBER!
THE VERY QUIET DOTH DEAFEN MINE EARS!
EACH BEAT OF MY HEART CRIES O'ER AND O'ER...KARNILLA! KARNILLA! KARNILLA!
WHERE'ER I TURN, I SEE THY FACE!
LADY, BEGONE ---I PRAY THEE!
WHAT SINISTER SPELL HAST THOU WOVEN? WHAT MADNESS DOTH ENVELOP ME?
WHAT A MONSTROUS JEST--- THAT BALDER, MOST LOYAL OF ALL---
...SHOULD LOSE HIS HEART TO THE MERCILESS QUEEN OF THE NORNS!!
...TO HER, WHO IS ENEMY SWORN OF ETERNAL ASGARD!
IT CANNOT BE! IT MUST NOT BE! IT SHALL NOT BE!
ONLY IN COMBAT SHALL BALDER FIND THE FORGETFULNESS HE CRAVES!
SO LET ME SEEK THE PRINCE OF BATTLE...
THE GOD OF THUNDER ...THOR!
BUT, EVEN AS THE ANGUISHED IMMORTAL CRIES OUT---
IF DIRE JEOPARDY DOTH STALK THE STUNNING SIF---
THEN MUST THOR STAND AT HER SIDE!
NO MATTER WHAT THE DANGER BE..
SHE MUST NOT FACE IT ...ALONE!
NEXT
WHAT ON EARTH..?

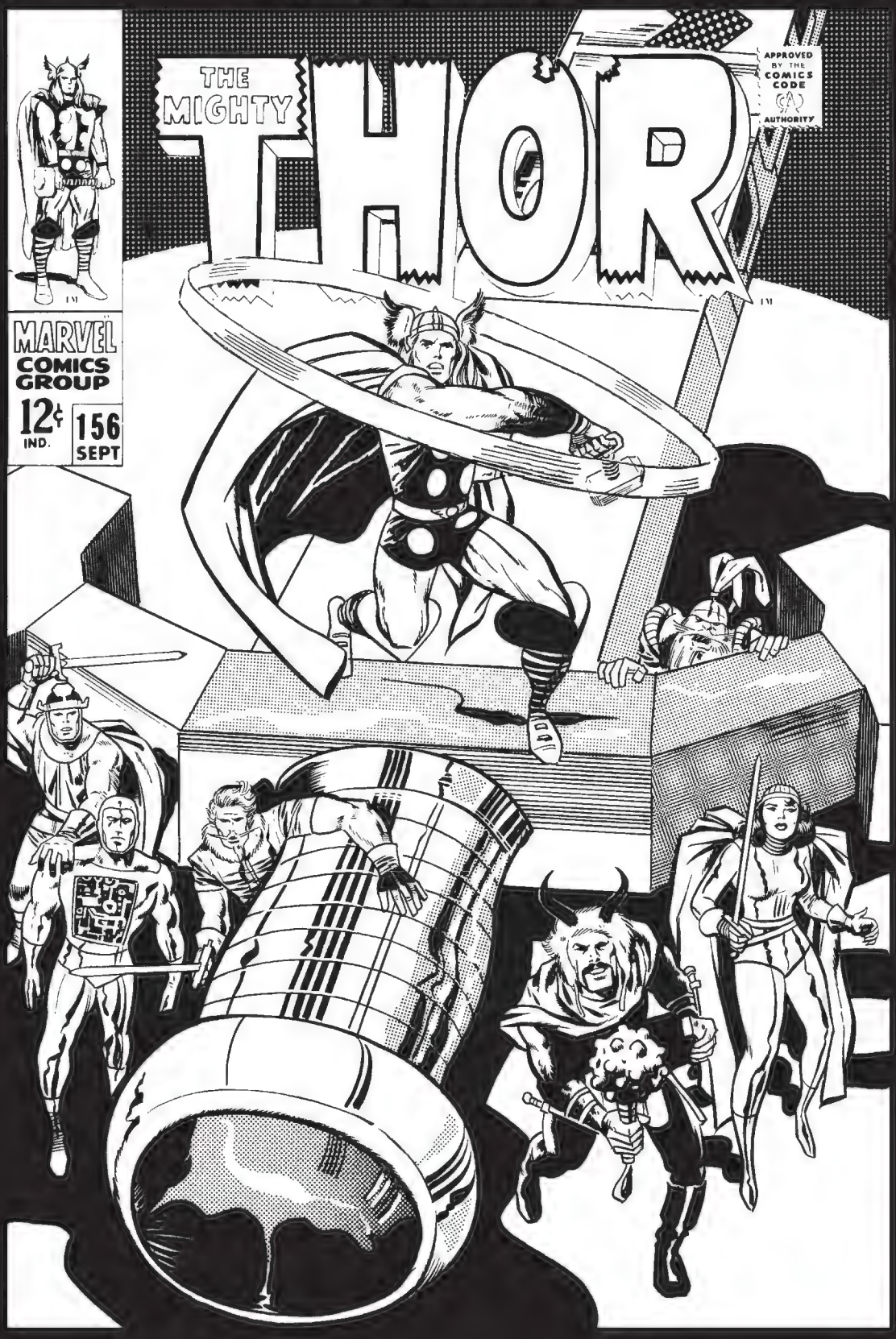
SPECIAL BONUS:

The Mighty Thor #162, page 8. Note voluminous Volstagg bursting the page's magins
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta

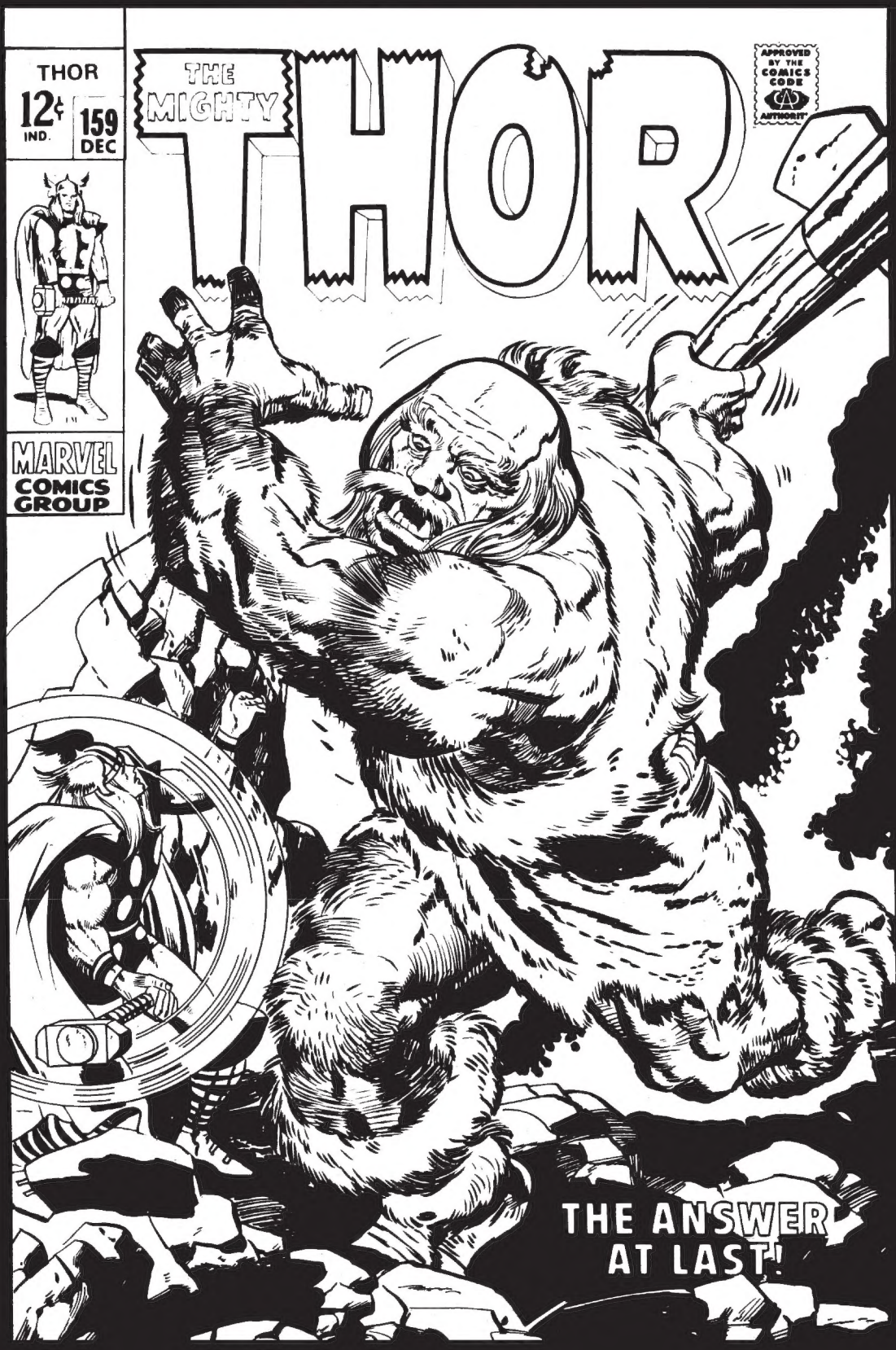
THOR 162
11
NOW ALL IS GONE... WHILST NAUGHT BUT THOR REMAINS!
DEEPER GROWS THE SPINNING VORTEX!
AS CLOSER COME I TO FABLED...
ASGARD!
WHO TRODS UPON THE RAINBOW BRIDGE??
NOW SHEATH THY SWORD, BRAVE HEIMDALL!
'TIS I, THE GOD OF THUNDER!
PASS THEE THEN, MY PRINCE!
'TIS WELL... FOR THERE BE MUCH I WOULD RELATE!
THY MOST SOVEREIGN SIRE AWAITS THY COMING!
NO NEED FOR WORDS!
UP THEN, THOR! LET US AWAY!
ALL-WISE ODIN DOTH KNOW WHAT HATH TRANSPIRED!
FANDRAL! WILT THOU TAKE ME HENCE?
OUR HEARTS REJOICE! OUR COMRADE IS RETURNED!
STILL STANDS THE REALM... FOR ALL BE WELL!
WAIT THOU, FOR VALIANT VOLSTAGG!
I MUST NEEDS HOLD MY CHARGER BACK...
LEST HE TRAMPLE ALL AND SUNDRY!
8.

The Mighty Thor #155 cover original illustration
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta

The Mighty Thor #156 cover original illustration
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta



The Mighty Thor #159 cover original illustration
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta



BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust out into the post-Depression wartime economy. Through family connections, he was able to land a job with Martin Goodman's comic-book publishing start-up, Timely Comics, as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so when his first professional writing job came, in the form of a humble two-page text story in *Captain America Comics* #3, he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

But the world of comics managed to keep Stan Lee constantly employed. His proficiency on the job got him the position of managing editor at an extremely young age. He graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories in *All-Winners*, *USA Comics*, and other Timely anthologies. His tenure in the '50s saw him expand the company (now called Atlas Comics) output to include more genre experimentation, with westerns, war, horror and crime comics.

All this activity was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists topped off by the formidable talents of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to do something to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Stan figured he would co-opt the successful super-hero revival at competitor DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Stan's Marvel Age heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people, forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just like the average person might.

Stan's innovation sent shock waves through the comics industry, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold: unlike other fads of the time, it wasn't letting go. Under his direction, creations like Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Stan developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus exploding the story possibilities for the kids who became eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Stan also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads, and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Stan wrote virtually every comic that appeared from Marvel during the 1960s. But when he was promoted to Publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Stan has returned to write scripts for the odd single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. To this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 into a gritty upbringing on the streets of New York's Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the more familiar name of Jack Kirby, but his experiences on the street would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations like him would never dream of going.

After some early strip work helped get his name out to prospective employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip, and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed *Captain America* for Timely Comics, and Jack immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon & Kirby were working with National Publications, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like *Sandman* and *Manhunter*. Like many of his peers, he served honorably in WWII, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

In the '50s, Jack returned to comics, helping establish the romance genre with its first title, *Young Romance Comics*. More genre work followed for Timely/Atlas, with a prolific output that covered western, war, and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Jack brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled bombast and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters he created.

The King's way of doing things was so popular that it set the tone for many of Stan Lee's editorial decisions throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated onto books by drawing over Jack's layouts. Jack left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling the scripting chores as well as the art duties. Jack's "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the '70s to lend his unbridled imagination to a new cast of creations: *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur*, and *Machine Man*. In addition, he returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Jack continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

Biographical material researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY

The Amazing Spider-Man Vols. 1-9 By Stan Lee, Steve Ditko & John Romita
Sensational stories of everybody's favorite wall-crawler—your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man.

Ant-Man/Giant-Man Vols. 1-2 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Don Heck, Larry Lieber, Dick Ayers, Carl Burgos & Bob Powell
Thrilling science and microscopic adventures abound in the action-packed world of Hank Pym, Ant-Man and Janet Van Dyne, the Wasp!

Atlas Era Heroes Vols. 1-2 By Bill Everett, John Romita, Carl Burgos Dick Ayers, & Russ Heath
Battling back outer-space menaces and the Communist hordes, the greatest heroes of the '50s are collected in one incomparable series!

Atlas Era Strange Tales Vol. 1 By Joe Maneely, Bill Everett, John Romita, Gene Colan, Joe Sinnott & Bernie Krigstein
Pre-Code stories of horror, psychological suspense, and outer-space fantasy lushly illustrated by the giants of the comic book medium.

Atlas Era Tales to Astonish Vols. 1-2 By Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Don Heck, Joe Sinnott & Stan Lee
Amazing tales of monsters and the farthest reaches of the imagination by comics' greatest talents.

Atlas Era Tales of Suspense Vols. 1-2 By Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Don Heck, Joe Sinnott & Stan Lee
Sci-fi fantasy wonders of other worldly aliens and incomprehensible monsters as crafted by the greatest talents of the Atlas Era!

The Avengers Vols. 1-7 By Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, Jack Kirby, Don Heck & John Buscema
Marvel's greatest stars assemble to form Earth's Mightiest Heroes.

Captain America Vols. 1-4 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Jim Steranko & Gene Colan
America's Sentinel of Liberty in action-packed stories of amazing adventure and suspense.

Captain Marvel Vols. 1-3 By Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, Gene Colan, Gil Kane & Jim Starlin
Born of the Kree, Marvel's Space-Born Super-Hero, Captain Mar-Vell protects planet Earth!

Doctor Strange Vols. 1-3 By Stan Lee, Steve Ditko, Roy Thomas, Gene Colan, Bill Everett, Marie Severin & Dan Adkins
The original otherworldly tales of Dr. Stephen Strange, Master of the Mystic Arts!

Daredevil Vols. 1-4 By Stan Lee, Wallace Wood, John Romita & Gene Colan
Blind lawyer Matt Murdock is Daredevil, the Man Without Fear.

The Fantastic Four Vols. 1-10 By Stan Lee & Jack Kirby
Presenting the First Family of Super Heroes' unparalleled adventures beyond your wildest imagination.

Golden Age All-Winners Vols. 1-2 By Joe Simon, Jack Kirby, Carl Burgos, Bill Everett & Stan Lee
The greatest heroes of the Golden Age band together to fight the Nazi hordes and the forces of evil!

Golden Age Captain America Vol. 1 By Joe Simon & Jack Kirby
A top-secret serum turns Steve Rogers, 98-pound weakling, into America's greatest wartime weapon in battles with his kid sidekick, Bucky.

Golden Age Daring Mystery Vol. 1 By Joe Simon, Maurice Gutwirth, Larry Antonette & Jack Binder
Leap into Marvel's second adventure series, *Daring Mystery!* Featuring the Fiery Mask, the Phantom Bullet, Marvex, Super Robot, and more!

Golden Age Human Torch Vols. 1-2 By Carl Burgos & Bill Everett
Fiery adventures of the amazing creation, the Human Torch and Toro, the Flaming Kid.

Golden Age Marvel Comics Vols. 1-2 By Carl Burgos & Bill Everett
Experience the birth of Marvel Comics from the very beginning! Featuring the Sub-Mariner, Ka-Zar, the Human Torch and more!

Golden Age Sub-Mariner Vols. 1-2 By Bill Everett & Paul Gustavson
From his undersea kingdom of Atlantis, the mighty Sub-Mariner protects the Seven Seas from tyranny.

Golden Age U.S.A. Comics Vol. 1 By Stan Lee, Basil Wolverton, Syd Shores, George Klein, Mike Surchorsky & Ed Winiarski
Join the fight alongside Marvel's patriots featuring the debuts of The Defender, The Whizzer, Major Liberty, Jack Frost and Rockman.

The Incredible Hulk Vols. 1-4 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Bill Everett, Gary Friedrich, Marie Severin, Herb Trimpe
When Dr. Robert Bruce Banner loses control, he becomes the unstoppable Hulk!

The Human Torch Vol. 1 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Larry Lieber & Dick Ayers
Johnny Storm, the high-flying teen Human Torch, in solo adventures from the early days of the Fantastic Four!

The Invincible Iron Man Vols. 1-4 By Stan Lee, Don Heck & Gene Colan
Gravely injured, Tony Stark built a suit of amazing armor to become the Invincible Iron Man!

Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. Vol. 1 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Don Heck & Jim Steranko
Espionage in the Marvel manner, starring the '60s super-spy, Nick Fury, and his unmatched team of S.H.I.E.L.D. operatives.

Rawhide Kid Vols. 1-2 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby & Jack Davis
Johnny Bart brings justice to the American frontier with the fastest six-shooters this side of the Mississippi. He is the Rawhide Kid!

Sgt. Fury Vol. 1 By Stan Lee, Jack Kirby & Dick Ayers
WWII tales of America's toughest army team, the Howling Commandos!

The Silver Surfer Vols. 1-2 By Stan Lee & John Buscema
The Sentinel of the Spaceways in his galaxy-spanning saga throughout the stars.

The Sub-Mariner Vols. 1-2 By Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, Gene Colan & Bill Everett
Namor, Prince of Atlantis, in his original adventures under the Seven Seas.

The Mighty Thor Vols. 1-7 By Stan Lee & Jack Kirby
The Asgardian Thunder God in mythic tales of epic battle and mystical adventure.

Warlock Vol. 1 By Roy Thomas, Gil Kane, Mike Friedrich & Bob Brown
Created to be the world's savior, Adam Warlock wields the cosmic power of the Soul Gem in his quest to redeem Counter-Earth!

The X-Men Vols. 1-6 By Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, Arnold Drake, Jack Kirby, Werner Roth & Neal Adams
Gifted with strange and amazing powers, Professor Charles Xavier's teen team, the X-Men, leads the way in the quest to bring together man and mutant.

The Uncanny X-Men Vols. 1-6 By Chris Claremont, Dave Cockrum & John Byrne
Children of the Atom, they fight to defend a world that fears and hates them. They are the All-New, All-Different X-Men.

THE MIGHTY
THOR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 153 JUNE
--BUT DR. BLAKE CAN DIE!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 154 JULY

THE MIGHTY
THOR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 155 AUG
NOW ENDS... The UNIVERSE!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 156 SEPT

THE MIGHTY
THOR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ 157 OCT
BEHIND HIM... RAGNAROK!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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THOR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
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THE ANSWER AT LAST!

THOR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
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SHALL A GOD PREVAIL!

THOR
THE MIGHTY
THOR
12¢ 162 MAR
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GALACTUS A'BORNING!

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